MACO SPORTSMAN 50c

pro football all-stars

22 FOOTBALL GREATS IN STORIES AND PICTURES— HILL AND GIFFORD TOP PROS

EXPERTS PICK '57 WINNERS:

BEARS IN RUNAWAY, GIANTS–BROWNS IN DOGFIGHT

NEW: FORM CHARTS—STATISTICS ON EVERY PLAYER— IN-ACTION ALBUM PHOTOS

introduction

Ever since professional football got out of the doldrums ten years ago the game has been attracting well-trained, highly talented recruits and more and more spectators. Today there isn't an All-American who doesn't reckon his future in terms of a professional career, and last year a record two and a half million spectators rooted for one or more of the twelve teams in the National Football League. Because of a prudent TV policy, with the Columbia Broadcasting System carrying games into all sections of the country on regional hookups, the pro game will continue to enjoy increased national impact.

In keeping with its ever growing popularity, pro football deserves a book that tells its current story. In these pages you will find carefully selected All-Star teams—one for offense and one for defense—with players selected on the basis of their over-all records, and what author Murray Olderman expects them to do this season. In addition, you'll find complete roundups of each team's strengths and weaknesses. You'll learn all about the most promising rookies and the still rugged veterans. You'll have statistics galore, a survey of sportswriters' opinions and plenty of action photographs.

the editor

pro football all-stars

by Murray Olderman

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84 highlights of 1956

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1957 all-star

offense

Ollie Matson, Cards
H

Alan Ameche, Colts
F

Frank Gifford, Giants
H

Tobin Rote, Packers
Q

Harlon Hill, Bears
E

Roosevelt Brown, Giants
T

Duane Putnam, Rams
G

Harley Sewell, Lions
G

Bob St. Clair, 49ers
T

Billy Howton, Packers
E

Larry Strickland, Bears
C

KEY

H, halfback; F, fullback;
Q, quarterback; E, end; T, tackle;
G, guard; C, center; S, safety;
LB, linebacker; MG, middle guard

professional squad

defense

Bobby Dillon, Packers
S

Yale Lary, Lions
S

Lindon Crow, Cards
H

Bill Sherman, Rams
H

Walt Michaels, Browns
LB

Joe Schmidt, Lions
LB

Gene Brito, Redskins
E

Art Donovan, Colts
T

Bill George, Bears
MG

Bob Gain, Browns
T

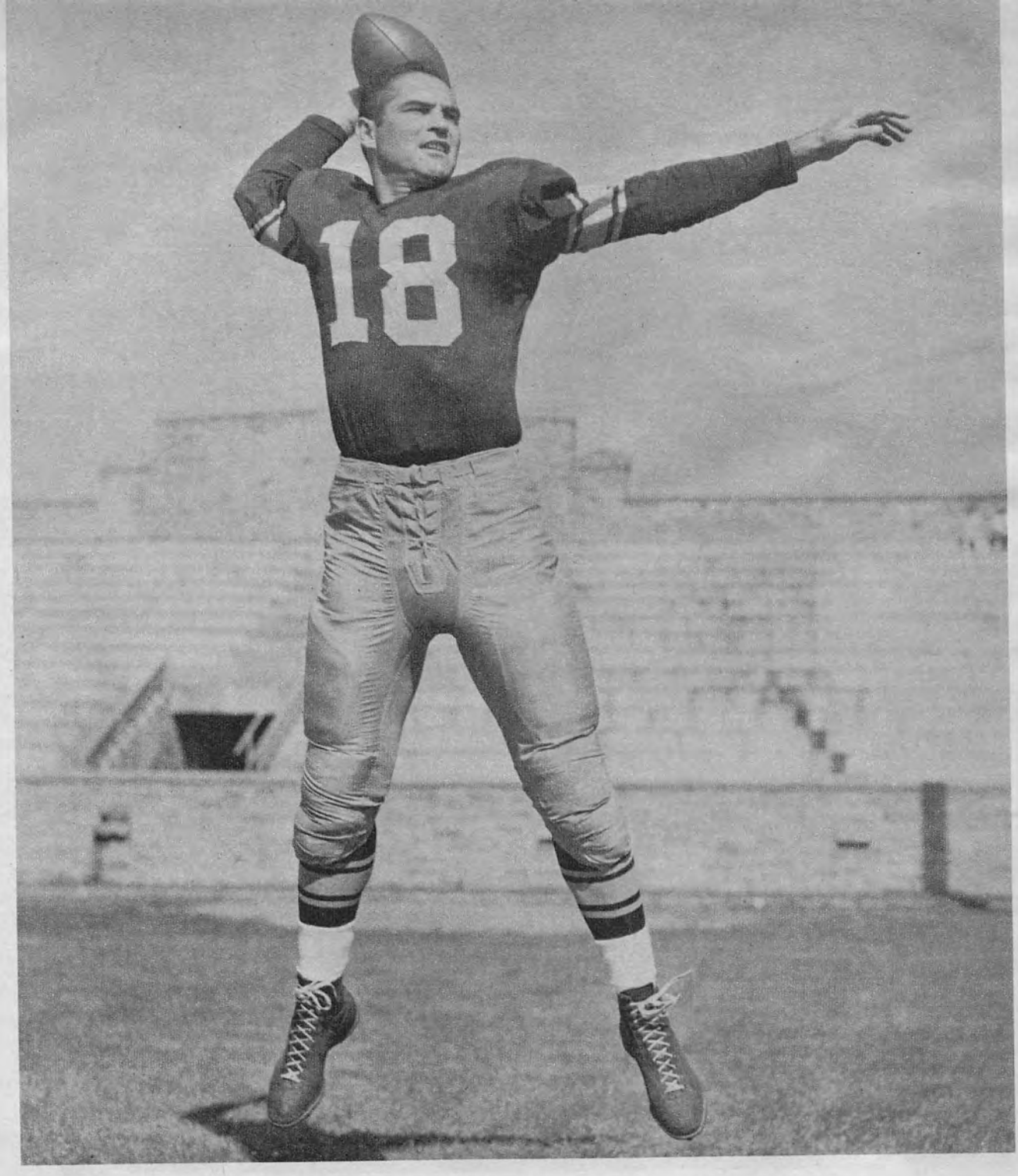
Andy Robustelli, Giants
E

1957 ALL-STAR PRO SQUAD

offense

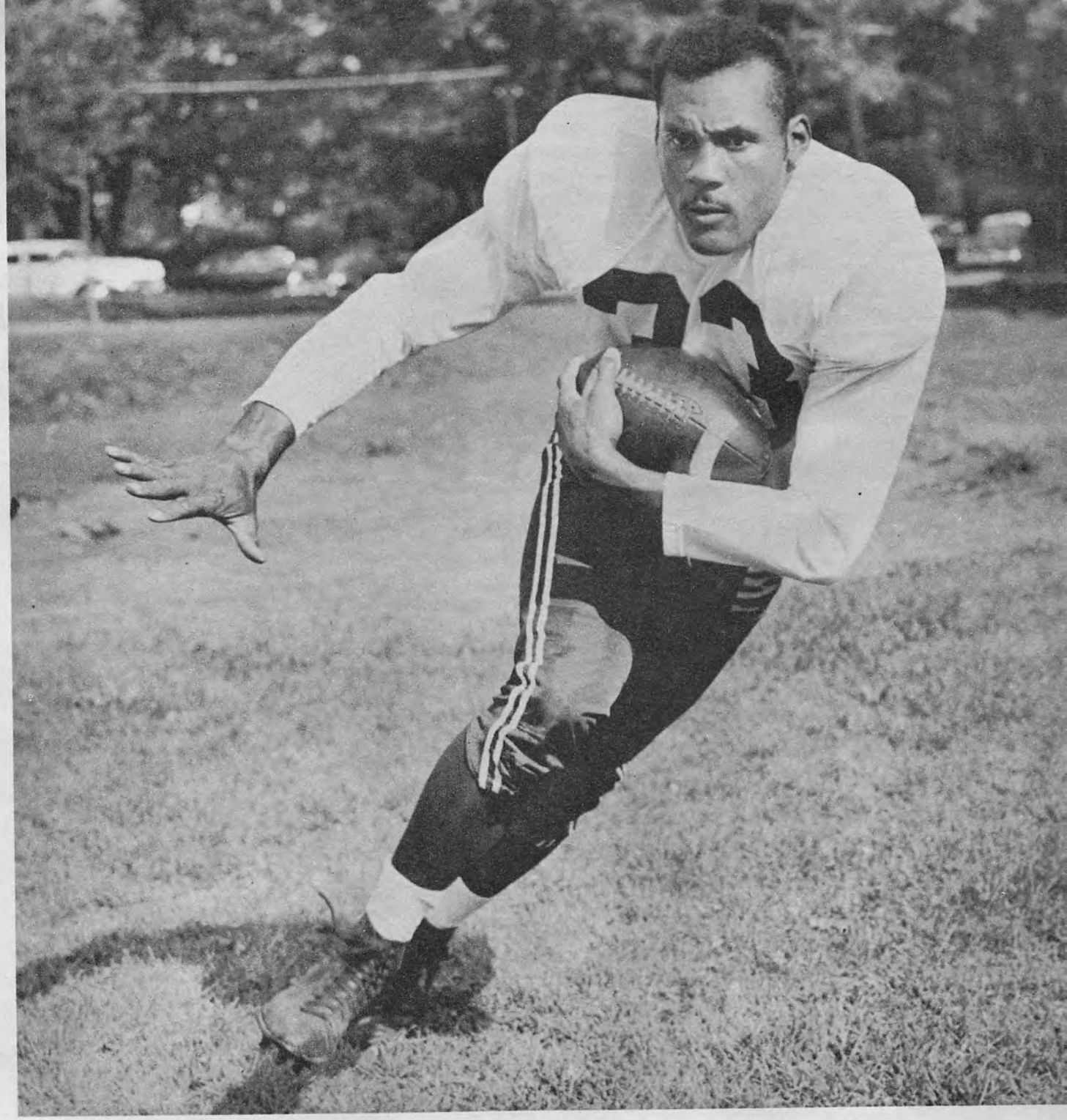
Top All-Stars Frank Gifford and Harlon Hill give attack unit of professional football's dream team the ideal balance between ground and air. Gifford provides clutch gallops, while Hill is famous for his dazzling pass receptions

PROFESSIONAL football was a relatively simple game in its borning days of the 1920's when the great Jim Thorpe didn't show up till Sunday afternoon and merely asked, "Which way's the goal line?" He took it from there. It was basic even as recently as Bronko Nagurski, before whom tacklers stood courteously aside. Pardon the heresy, but these immortals couldn't go it alone today. Football has become a game of intricacy and specialization, practiced by skilled artisans because the physical standards are so high that brute strength alone doesn't suffice. A Harlon Hill does nothing for the Bears but stand (no crouch) way out on a flank and, the moment the ball is snapped, weave elaborately downfield to elude defenders. A Frank Gifford is a shade closer to the all-purpose player, but concentration on his gifts as an elusive runner, rather than versatility, made him the league's outstanding player last year. Rarely do you hear of a pro lineman going both ways, because to become a good blocker requires arduous preparation. The men chosen as prospectively the 11 finest offensive players in the game were blessed with great natural ability, but they're all-pro because they apply it. There's no relaxation when competition for individual honors includes such men as Rick Casares, the punishing line-smasher of the Bears, or Bobby Layne, unruffled Lion field general, or Mike McCormack, tackle titan of the Browns. That they were left out of this all-pro selection shows the high caliber of the men chosen.



Q TOBIN ROTE, Green Bay Packers: Most painful moment the Giants' Jim Lee Howell experienced last spring was when he heard the Browns had swapped quarterbacks with Green Bay. "Migawsh," he groaned "they've gone and got the best man in football." He meant Tobin Rote who, it turns out, wasn't in the deal. But the opinion stands. Among the pro quarterbacks last year he threw the most, completed the most (for the most touchdowns), ran the most and gained the most. This has been standard for seven seasons with no one close to the rugged Rice grad as a combined threat. The indestructible 215-pounder hasn't missed a game since he broke into pro ball in 1950. He has a career average of better than five yards a carry and a swivel arm that throws touchdown passes long and short. It's no trick to gain all-pro recognition when you're on a winner. Rote does it on a team never above .500.

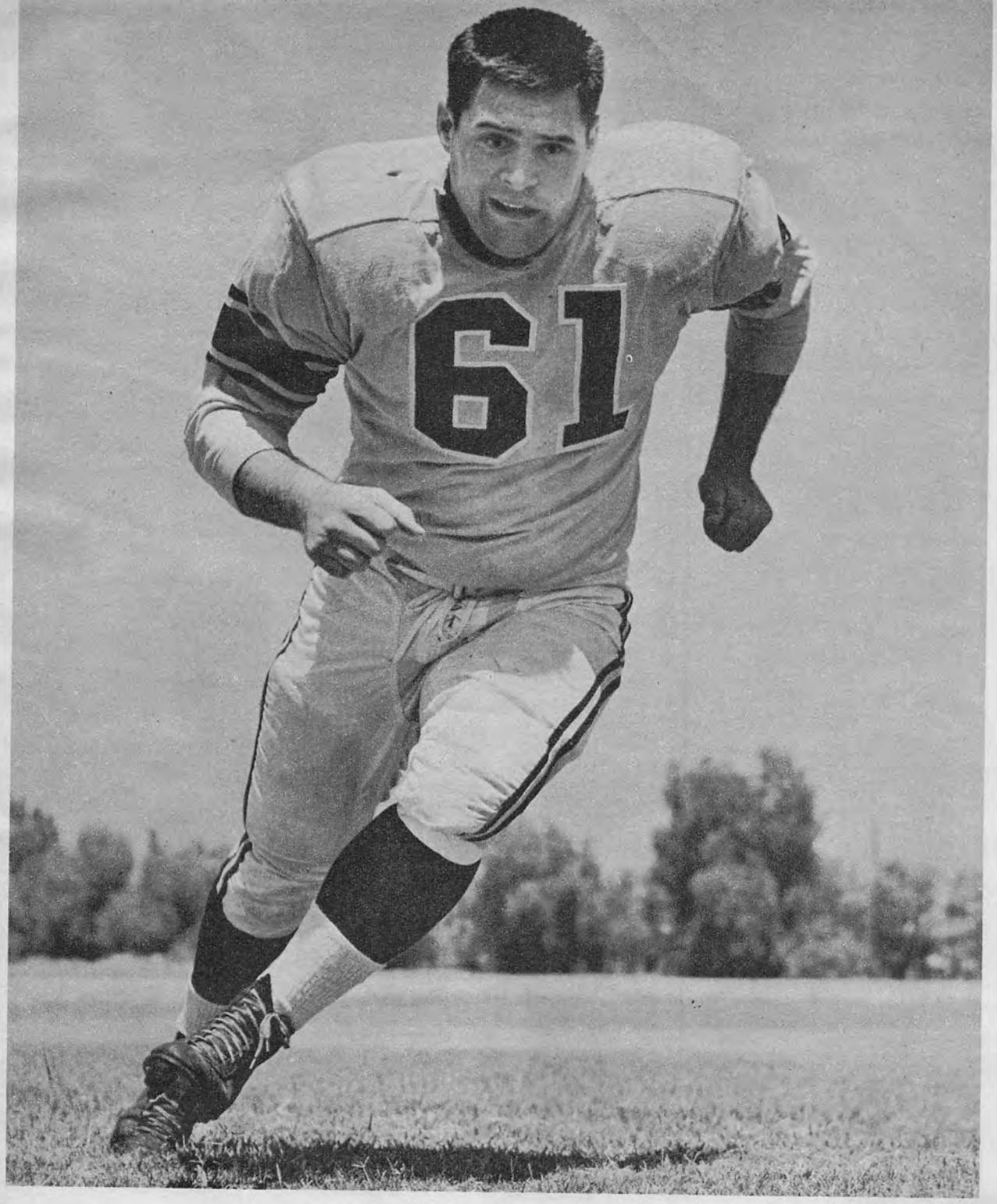
FRANK GIFFORD, New York Giants: Fresh off the greatest season in his career, acclaimed the NFL's No. 1 man in a poll of all players, Frank Gifford is frustrated. He thinks he would have made a great quarterback for the Giants. Instead, the handsome 27-year-old Californian (he's played Hollywood roles) has to settle for being the most versatile back in the game. Six years ago he came up from USC as an All-American tailback but touted for his defense. The wiggle-hipped 205-pounder was a pro rarity—a two-way player—until 1954, then slipped into an offensive-halfback spot for good. His running features amazing balance and drive. No back has ever achieved his 1956 statistical feat of ranking among the league leaders in both ball carrying (fifth, with a 5.2 average) and pass receiving (third). He was a little annoyed when Coach Jim Howell wouldn't let him return punts.



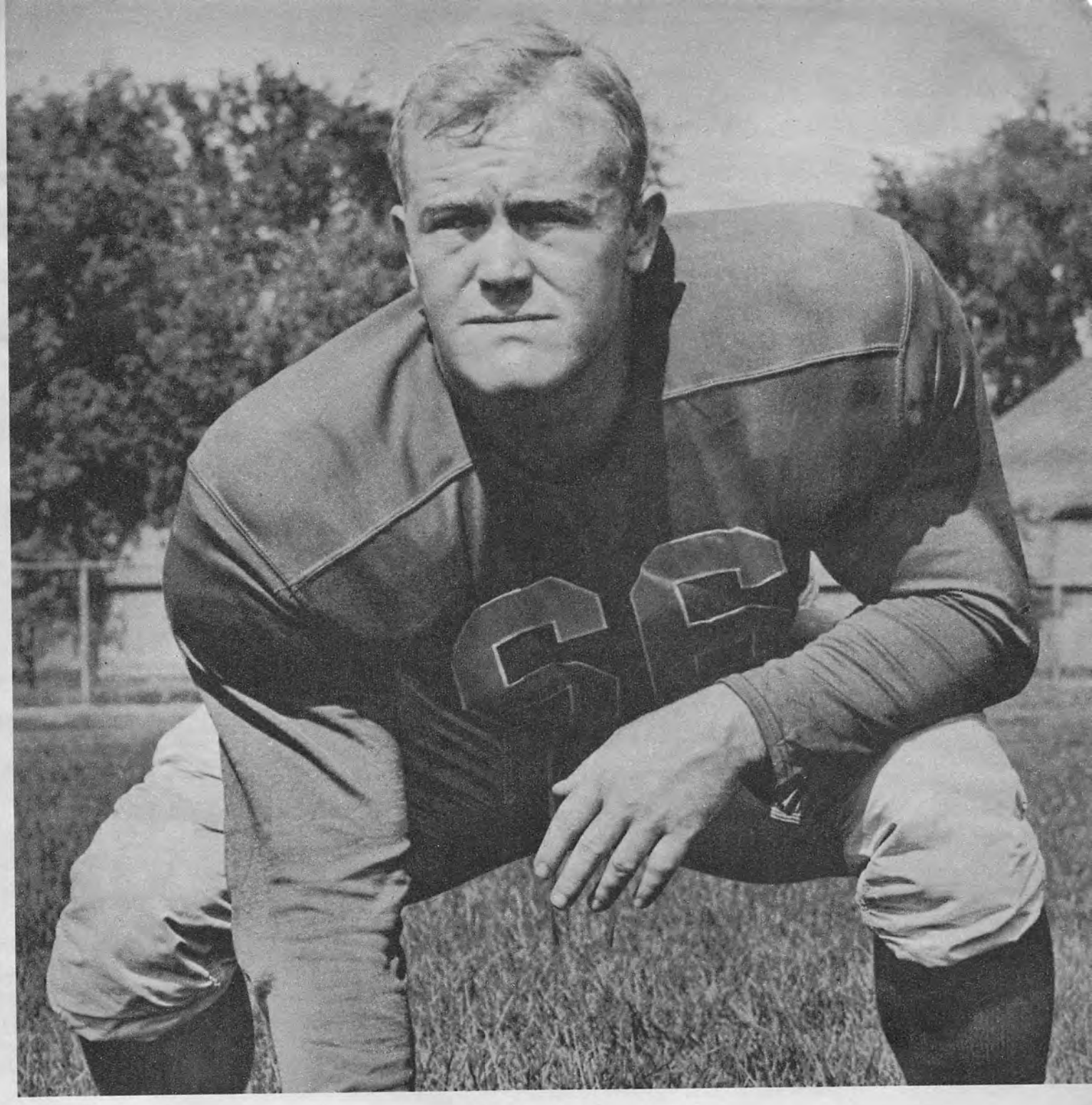
HOLLIE MATSON, Chicago Cardinals: The old pro was saying, "There never was a runner who could combine size and strength with speed like Ollie Matson." The Cardinals' premier threat is a 6-2, 215-pound sprinter who was on the 1952 Olympic team at Helsinki. At USF, which gave up football when he left, he scored 41 touchdowns in three years and played fullback. With the pros, in four seasons he has gained more than a mile rushing and is rated the most dangerous back in the game. One school of thought persists that Ollie, on a perennial contender, would rank as the greatest runner who ever slashed a line. At his peak, a spry 27, he comes off a banner '56 season (924 yards gained, second in the league, and 400 more called back because of penalties). Without him the Cards' efficiency is cut in half. Charley Trippi was the old pro, and he's a guy who should know. Take his word about Matson.

F ALAN AMECHE, Baltimore Colts: When Alan (The Horse) Ameche was crunching college lines at Wisconsin, the pros were dubious about his speed. When he ripped his way to the ground-gaining crown as a rookie two years ago, his Colt coaches were skeptical about his blocking. When he brought his blocking up to his rushing last season, all-star pickers overlooked him. This, his third pro year, should be when Ameche swings them all into line. Not particularly ponderous for a fullback, the fulcrum of his 217 pounds lies in his swinging shoulders. When The Horse wades into a pileup, tacklers scatter like seed. Ameche (no relation to Don) set an all-time college ground-gaining record of 3,212 yards. The pros have not been able to cut down his five-yards average and, moreover, the 23-year-old line-cracker from Kenosha is an indestructible team man. The Colts have never heard him complain.

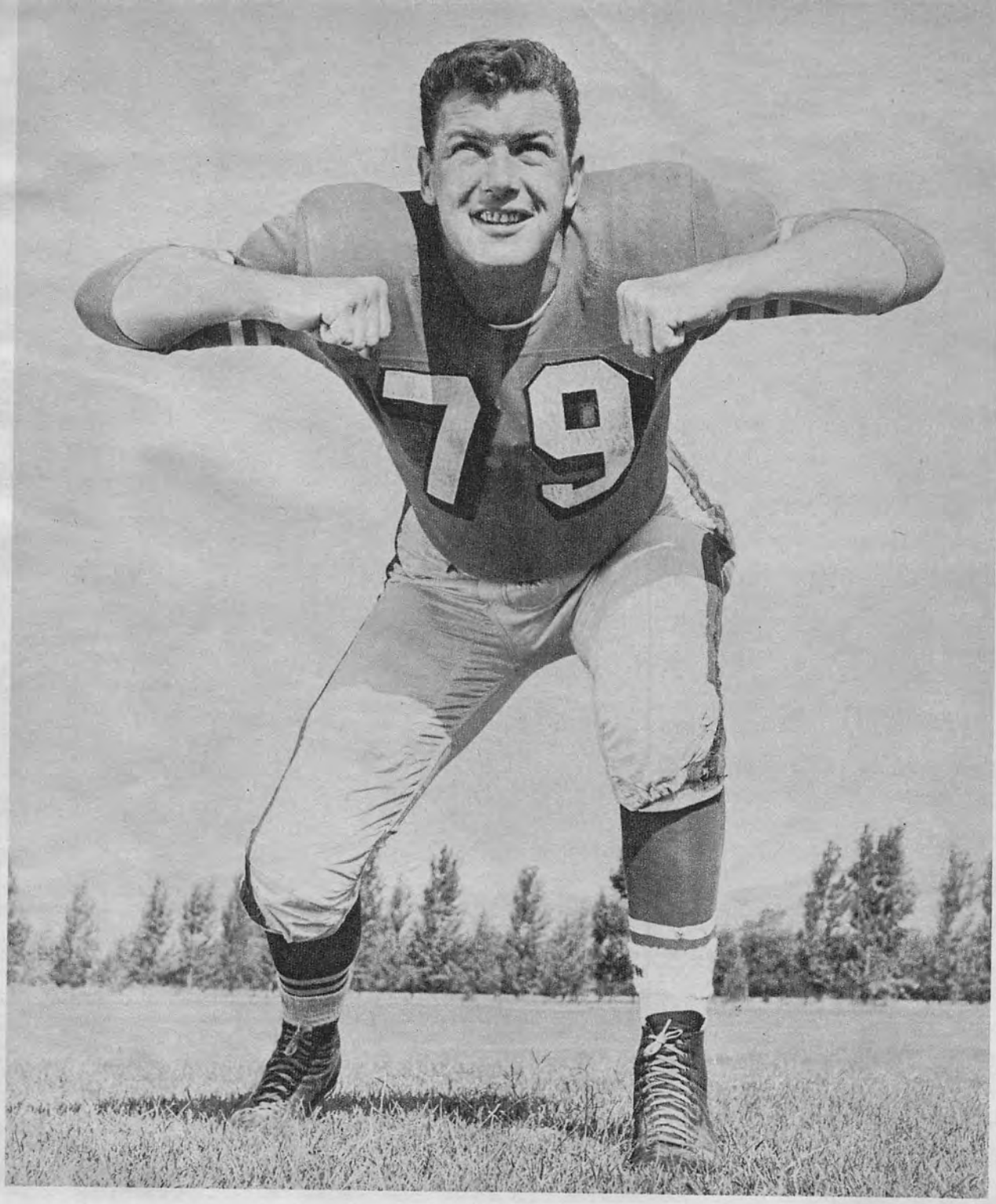
C LARRY STRICKLAND, Chicago Bears: No one is more inconspicuous on offense than the man over the ball. Once it passes through his legs, he's lost in a maze of bodies. Larry Strickland of the Bears is one center you don't miss. First, he stands an imposing 6-4 and weighs a muscular 245. It's distributed the way you'd expect to find it in a Texan, long and lean. He played his college football at North Texas State and was graduated to the Bears four seasons ago. In that time, with Strickland providing the primary cover for the quarterback, the Midway attacking unit has become football's most potent. Behind his coverage, Bear quarterbacks don't get their uniforms soiled. He also has the quickness to sift through the defense and nail the middle linebacker. At 26, he's in his prime. Only quibble is his occasional complacency. The Bear coaches say he's as good as he wants to be.



G DUANE PUTNAM, Los Angeles Rams: Dumbbells made an all-pro guard of Duane Putnam. When the husky human minesweeper first reported to the Los Angeles Rams in 1952, he weighed a scant (for pro football) 195. It was okay for college ball, where he provided escort service for College of the Pacific runners, but it wouldn't make much of a dent in a 250-pound pro defensive giant. So the unknown from Antioch, Calif., applied himself to the paraphernalia of a weight lifter, not completely foreign to him since he once shot-putted 50 feet, and added 40 pounds to his 6-foot frame in a couple of years. At the same time, he didn't lose the quickness that enabled him to dart out of a line and stay ahead of the ball carrier on end sweeps. The combination meant all-pro laurels, which he's gathered the last two years, and recognition as the finest running blocker in the game. At 28, he's maturing to greatness.

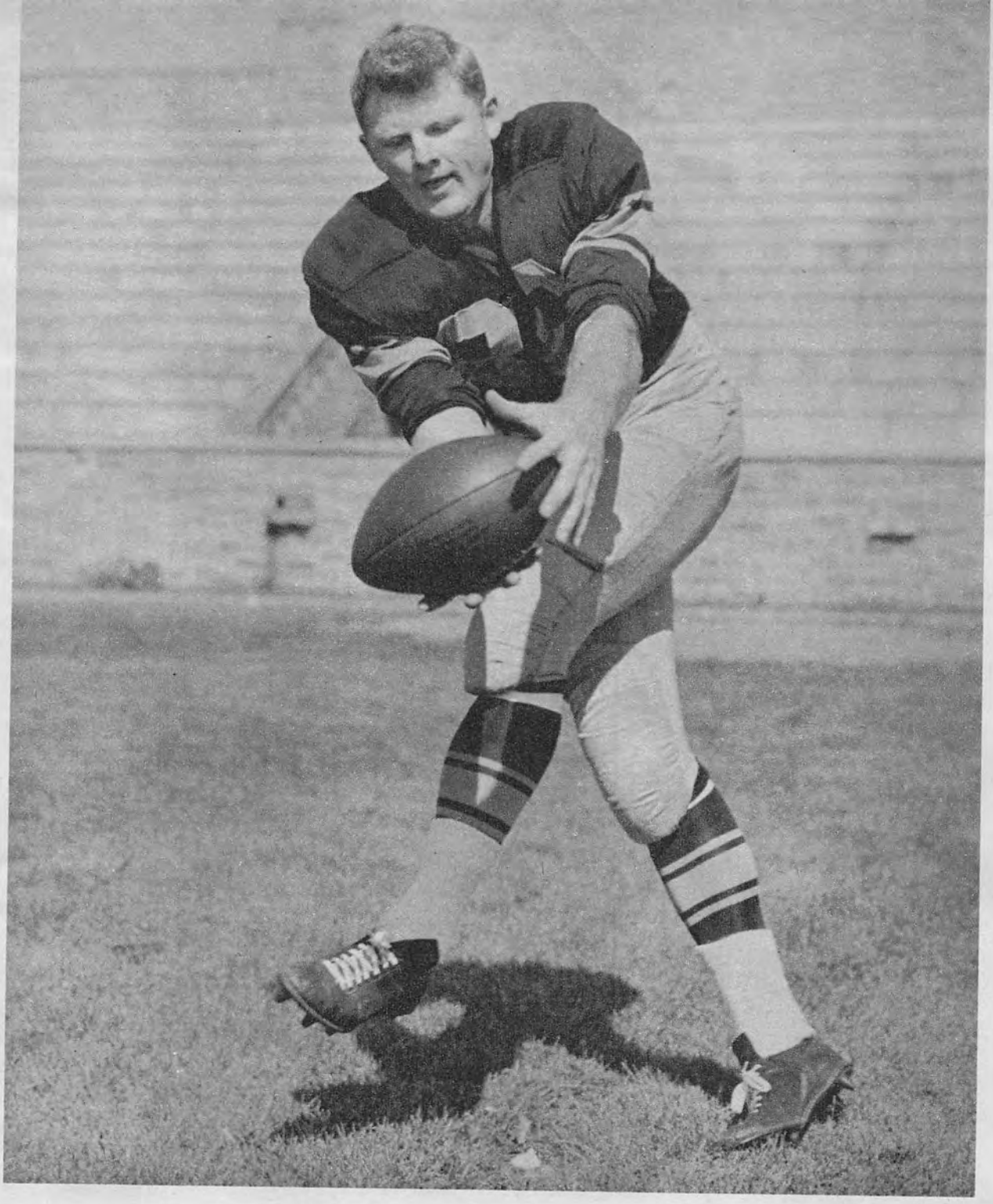


GHARLEY SEWELL, Detroit Lions: The Lions can stop complaining that Harley Sewell is the most overlooked lineman in football. The guitar-playing, hillbilly-singing rock-and-socker from St. Jo, Texas, has come into sharp focus as the running guard who shows the way for the Detroit attack. Harley is a barrel-chested 235-pounder with a heavy-slung jaw and thin blond hair who made All-American at Texas—and didn't know how to pull out of a line to lead interference when the Lions drafted him Number 1 in 1953. He learned exceedingly well because Coach Buddy Parker rates him tops in the league, a tribute to the hard work and desire he puts into his job. What makes him peculiarly effective is that he's also the fastest lineman on the Detroit squad. While a linebacker is still trying to size up the play, Sewell has shot out of line, turned the end and nudged him to the ground.

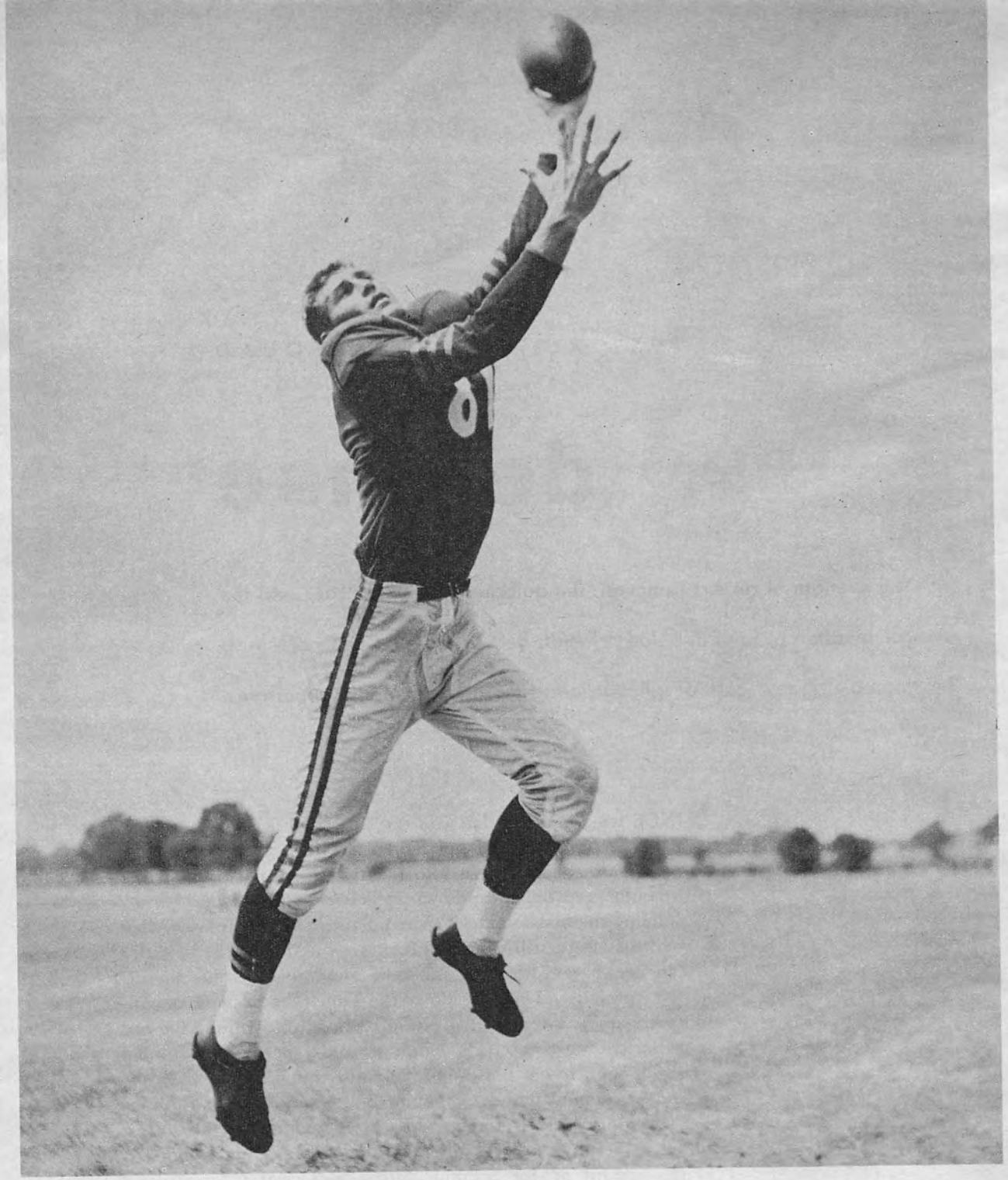


BOB ST. CLAIR, San Francisco Forty-Niners: Bob St. Clair stands out as a Forty-Niner on two counts. He's the only native San Franciscan on the squad. He's 6-9, the tallest man in NFL, and drapes an awesome 265 pounds in that area. The combination has been parlayed into an offensive tackle who can brush any lineman aside. After his 1953 debut as a pro, Buck Shaw, then the coach, rated him the best in the club's history. It's more than coincidental that the Forty-Niners became the game's most explosive running team just when he arrived. Bob is so strong he's been used to pile up enemy attacks on goal-line stands. Despite his size, he had the speed to play end in college at San Francisco until the Dons abandoned football his junior year. He switched to Tulsa and became an All-Missouri Valley tackle before returning home. The 26-year-old giant (they call him The Geek) has been all-pro for two years.

T ROOSEVELT BROWN, New York Giants: The New York Giants became the National Football League champs because they could move the ball better than anyone else, and the primary reason was Roosevelt Brown, a tough tackle with a classic build. He spreads at the shoulders and tapers to the waist. Giant brass beamed when he paid his customary winter visit to their offices. He had expanded to 260 pounds without sacrificing mobility. Brown has probably the fastest initial charge in football and the sustaining speed to be a murderous downfield blocker. He's been four years in development, and Giant patience has paid off. A novice of 20 when he first reported in 1953, a 27th draft pick from Morgan State, he surprisingly became an offensive starter, mainly because no one else was around. Competition wouldn't bother him today. There's a feeling Rosey is football's best offensive lineman.



BILLY HOWTON, Green Bay Packers: Back in 1952 Billy Howton wouldn't consider reporting to the Green Bay Packers. He doubted he was big enough or good enough. He already had accepted a high-school coaching job, but Tobin Rote—a fellow Rice grad looking for a passing target—did a selling job on the slim end. In his rookie season he led all pro receivers in yards gained. In 1956 he again led the league in yards gained on pass receptions. Five NFL seasons have established the 27-year-old Texan as the Packers' best since Don Hutson, and in this instance comparisons aren't odious. Like Hutson, he's mastered the guileful art of gliding at half speed to lull a defender and then turning on full throttle to break into the open. His sure hands do the rest, resulting in a league-leading 12 touchdowns last year. The doubts of even the most confirmed skeptic have fled.



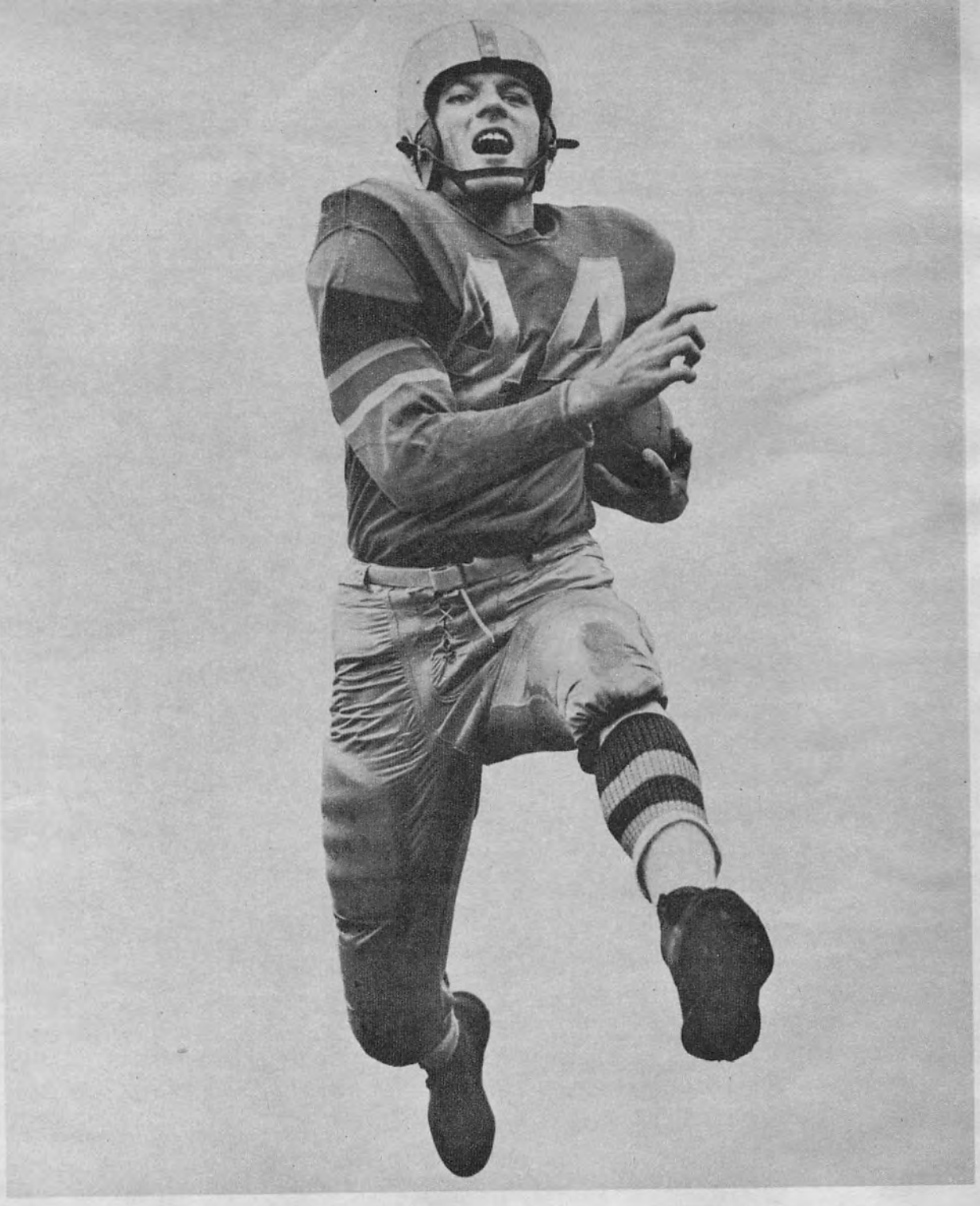
EHARLON HILL, Chicago Bears: The 50,000 Yankee Stadium spectators sat transfixed while the lean figure in black swooped downfield in the dusk. The gun went off as Harlon Hill reached for the ball in flight, a white-shirted Giant straining with him. The Bear end juggled it off his fingertips, tipped it in the air a second time, dove across the goal line and grabbed it firmly at grass-top for the score that tied the Giants and was the difference in Chicago's winning the Western division title. This was the extra effort that's made Hill, at 25, football's greatest offensive threat, on a par with immortal Don Hutson, and bigger at 6-3 and 198 pounds. Spurned by big-time college football, he went to Florence Teachers (Ala.), was picked up as a sleeper by the Bears in 1954 and in three seasons has scored 32 touchdowns. It takes two and three men to cover him, the ultimate tribute to an end.

1957 ALL-STAR PRO SQUAD

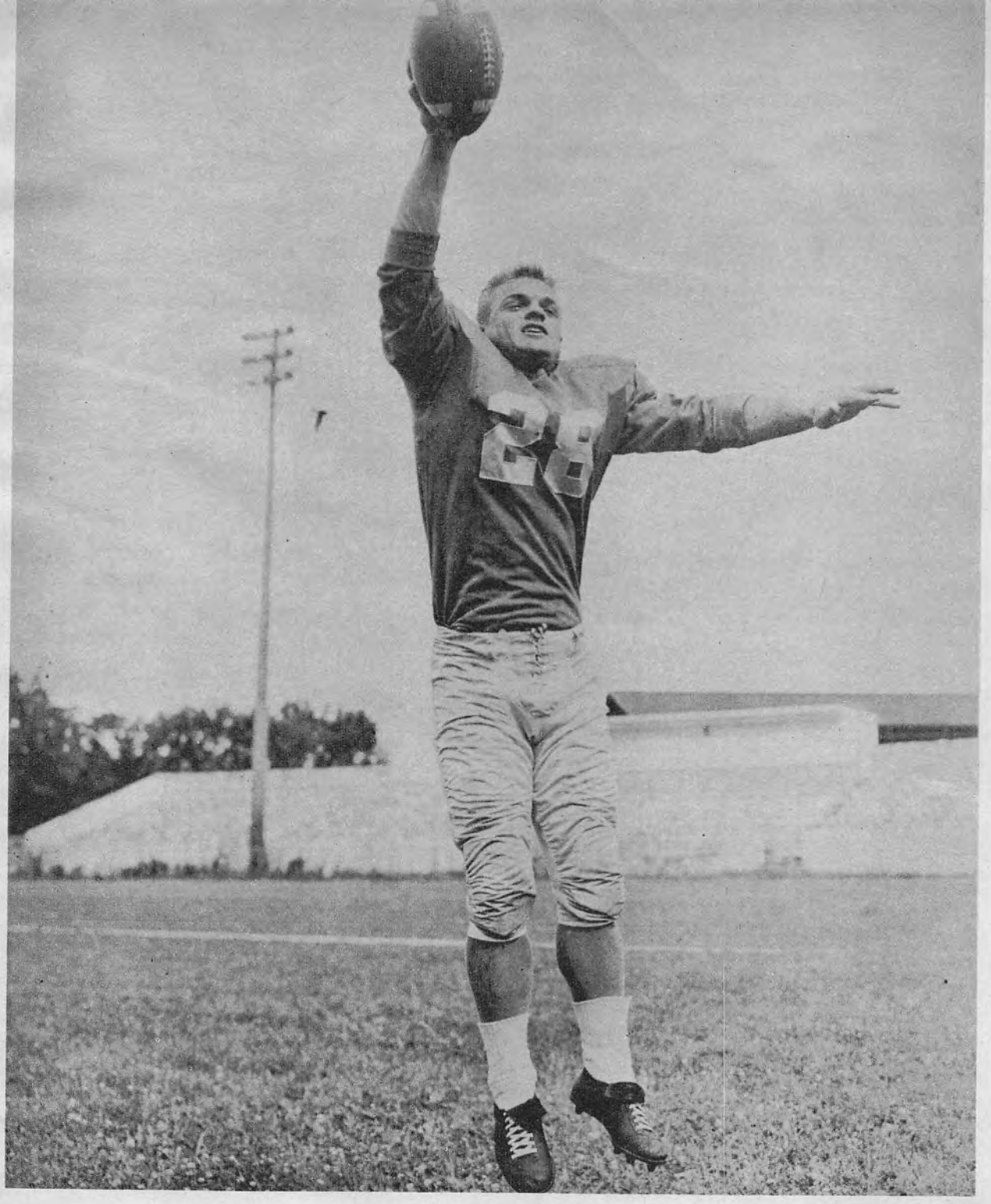
defense

The strength of an Art Donovan, the quickness of a Yale Lary and the combination of both in a Joe Schmidt, best of them all, give defensive football a new cast of glamor and steadily increasing importance

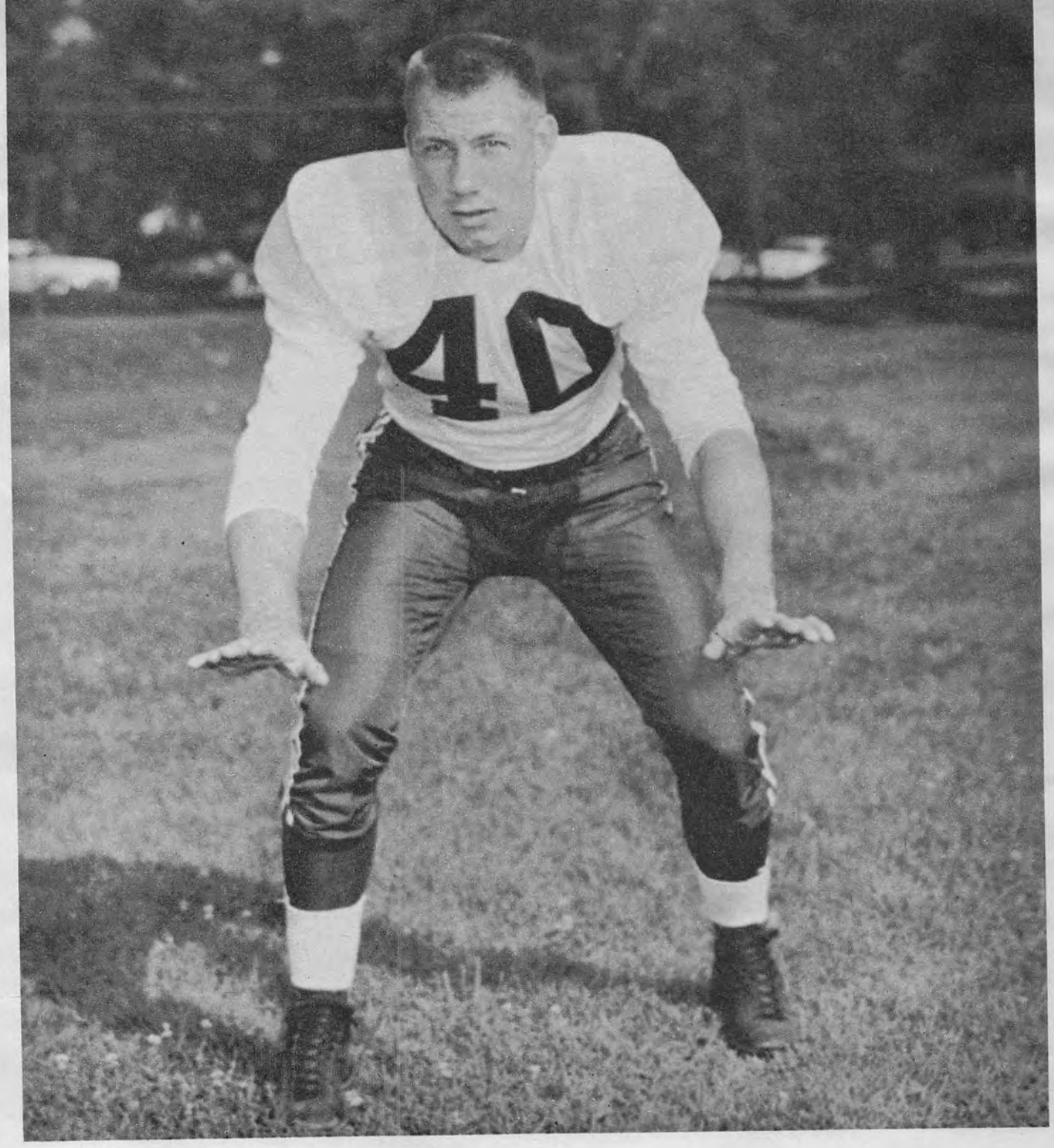
SINCE it's axiomatic that you can't win unless you score, football coaches used to load up their attacking teams with all the hot-shots they could squeeze onto a field at one time and hope the culls could keep the score down on defense. Red Blaik at Army was among the first to perceive the fallacy in such thinking when the colleges were still playing platoons. The kid with the extra dip in his charge, with the inherent roughness, became his defensive specialist. The pros do it the same way because it wins football games. The recent stress on ball control, hammering out four or five yards a crack, emphasizes the need of personnel strong enough to get possession. So you employ tackles like 265-pound Art Donovan and 250-pound Bob Gain. A lineman under 230 you automatically forget. A back who can't run the 100 in 10 flat or better is lost. The bonus comes when Andy Robustelli blocks a punt or Joe Schmidt hits a ball carrier so hard he fumbles and Joe alertly pounces on it, or Yale Lary intercepts a pass and threads through an open field. These are the men who make all-pro lists because, in addition to stopping the opposition cold, they're able to convert their defensive talents into a weapon for the offense. Tackling may be the most natural function on a gridiron, but the guile of experience distinguishes the all-stars. Their opportunism which converts defensive breaks into touchdowns is the calculated result of sheer physical strength and the smartness to exploit it. The following 11 men have both.



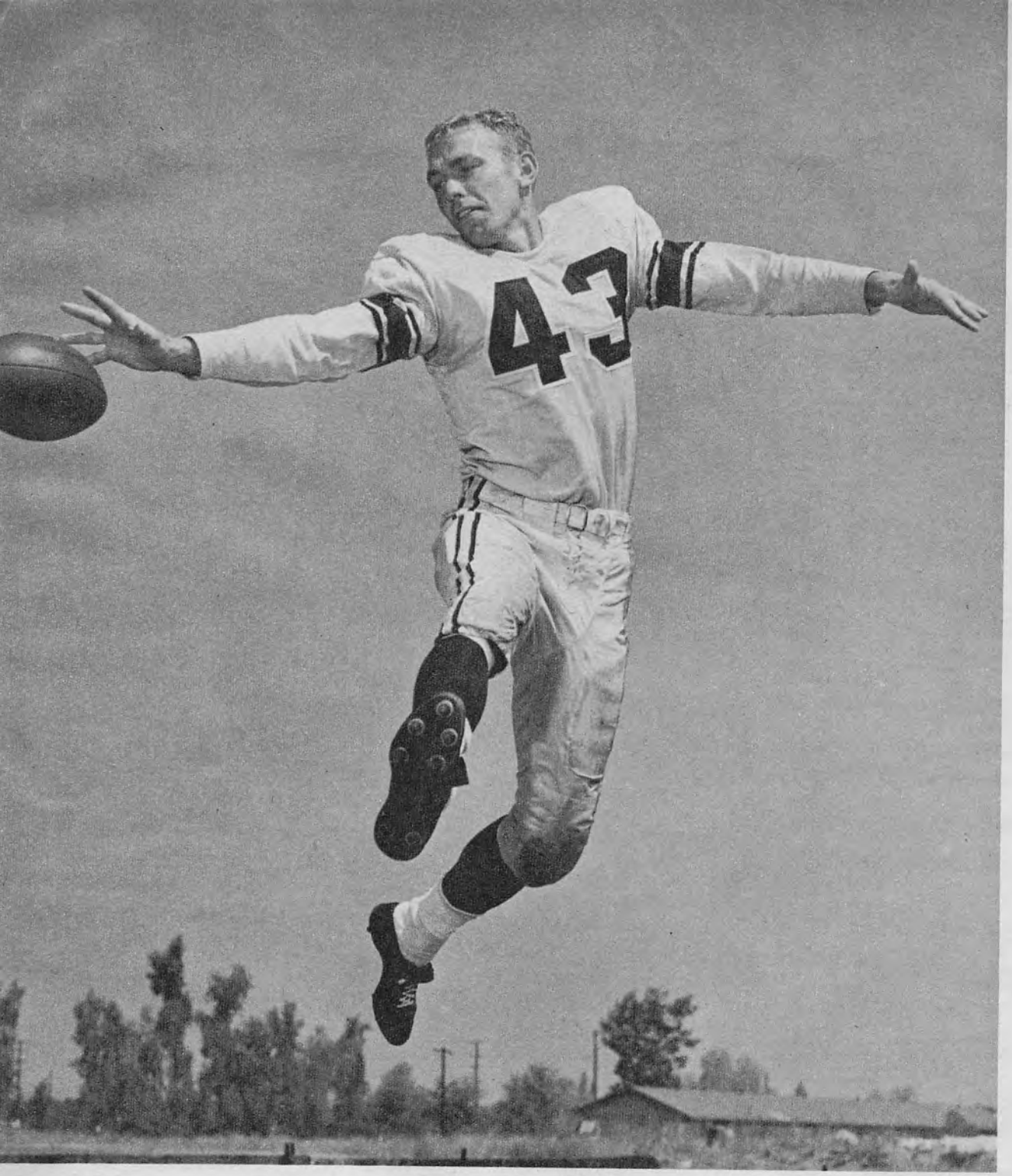
S BOBBY DILLON, Green Bay Packers: Bobby Dillon has played six years in one of the most grueling arenas of sport—professional football—with only one eye. He has played a position, safety, where the premium is on sharp eyesight, where any mistake can be fatal to his team's chances of winning. Don't worry about depth perception. No passes float over his head, and he intercepts more than his share—enough to rate all-pro honors since 1954. Compounding his value is ability to run with a snared ball. Last year he returned his seven interceptions a phenomenal 244 yards. Being a top safety demands more. It calls for split-second analysis, so if it's a run, Dillon can spurt up to the line of scrimmage to head off a gain. It calls for ruggedness. The 27-year-old Packer weighs a gutty 185, has the right responses. He had them as an All-American defensive back at Texas, too.



YALE LARY, Detroit Lions: Yale Lary is so versatile and gifted a safety you can't keep him in the shadow of perennial all-pro Jack Christiansen any longer. No reflection on Chris. Lary punts for the Lions, returns the most punts, is deep on kickoffs and intercepted eight passes last year, second best in the NFL. He brought one of them back 73 yards for a score. One of pro ball's foremost deep men in 1952-53 before he went into the Army, he might now be the best. His return a year ago is the clue to the Lion rise from last to Western division contention, with no rust evident as he enjoyed his greatest campaign. The 180-pounder has the extra speed you look for in a safey. His ruggedness was proved as an All-Southwest Conference back at Texas A&M. Off the gridiron, he's a minor-league slugger.



H LINDON CROW, Chicago Cardinals: The grid career of Lindon Crow was embarrassingly inconspicuous until he stuck his hands in the way of 11 passes last year and led the pros in interceptions. The cumulative impact of two seasons with the Cardinals and three at Southern Cal suddenly took effect. Here was the fruition of rare talent, exposed by a spectacular exploit. In college he was a wingback, the man who got his nose dirty while the tailback got the glory, but the Cards appreciated him enough to draft him No. 2 in 1955. He is an ideal 6-1 and 187 with the speed to run the 100 in 10 seconds, but the Cards had no heroic thoughts for him. He was ticketed immediately for lackluster defensive duties, and Crow just as quickly became a reliable safety specialist, but in the shadow of fabled "Night Train" Lane. Now he's the star. He made his own breaks. No one else intercepted those passes.



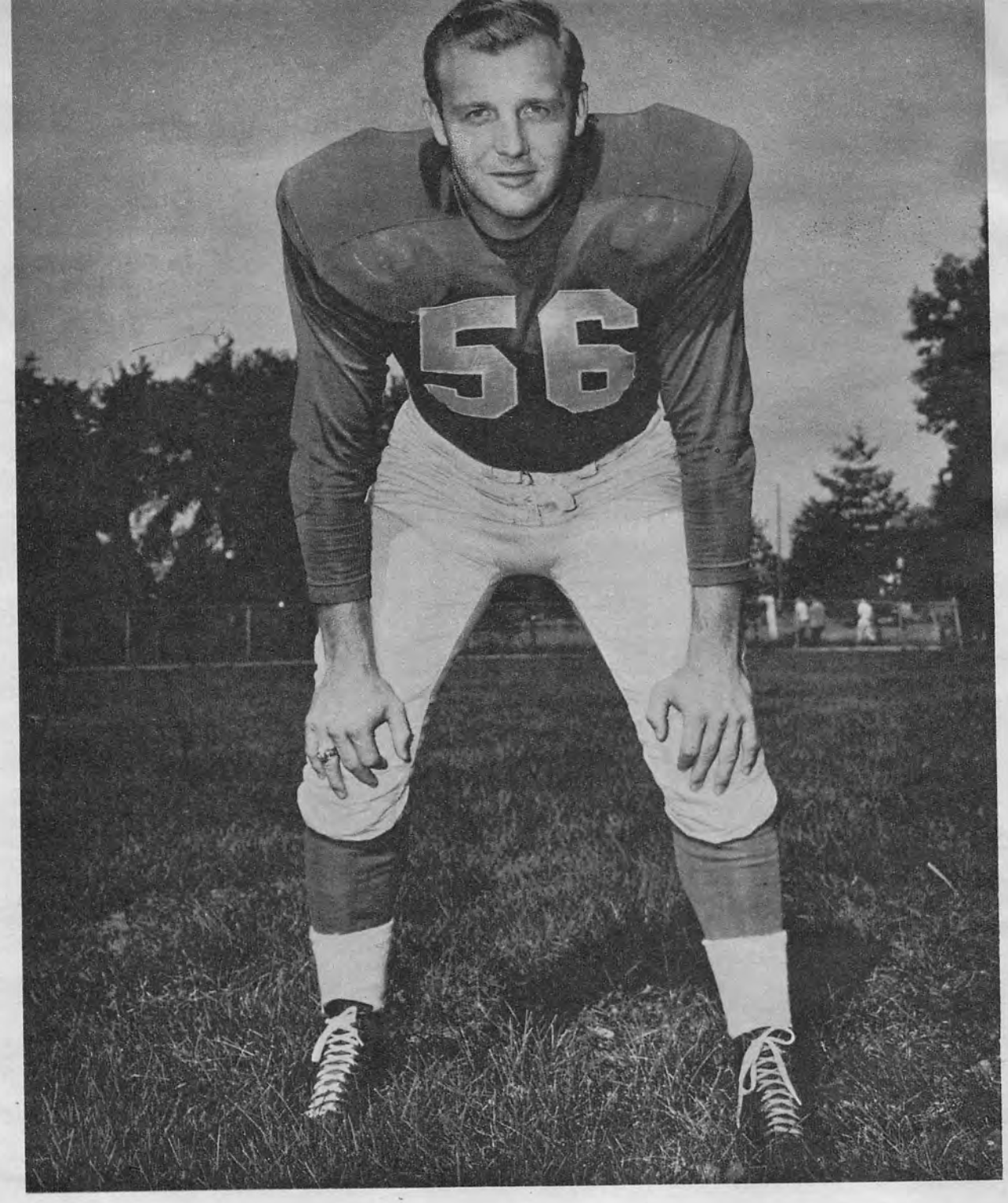
H BILL SHERMAN, Los Angeles Rams: Bill Sherman has had a split football career. When he played at St. Mary's in California, he was just another kid who could run but never got far. The school abandoned football, and Bill went into the service. One summer he had an idea he could play pro baseball and had a brief outfield fling in the Coast loop, again without any results. In 1953 he gave football another whirl, as a pro in the Canadian ranks. Eagle-eyed Ram informants saw enough to entice him into camp in 1954, a kid who, off his background, would be gone after the first squad cut. But the Ram coaches found a spark. For a man who is 6-2 and 198, he possessed terrific speed and had the heart for contact —prime requisites of a defensive back. He was an immediate hit and a year later led the NFL in pass interceptions. In 1956 he ran one back 95 yards. At 29, he's arrived as an athlete.

MG

BILL GEORGE, Chicago Bears: The most significant fact in Bill George's athletic background is that he was a wrestler at Wake Forest. It explains the agility he brings to the middle-guard position in the Bears' defense. Football has drifted from the barrel-house type, 300 pounds of bulk, immobile and immovable in the middle. George has the choice of jumping into the line to plug the line against running or dropping back for pass protection. A popular all-pro the last two years, he spent three seasons before that as an offensive guard. For his present role, he's ideally big (238) and rangy (6-2½). A smart diagnostician, he calls defensive signals. In last January's Pro Bowl game he cinched victory for the West by intercepting a pass on the goal line in the last minute. It was a typical clutch play by the 27-year-old Pennsylvania product, the one indispensable man on the Bears.

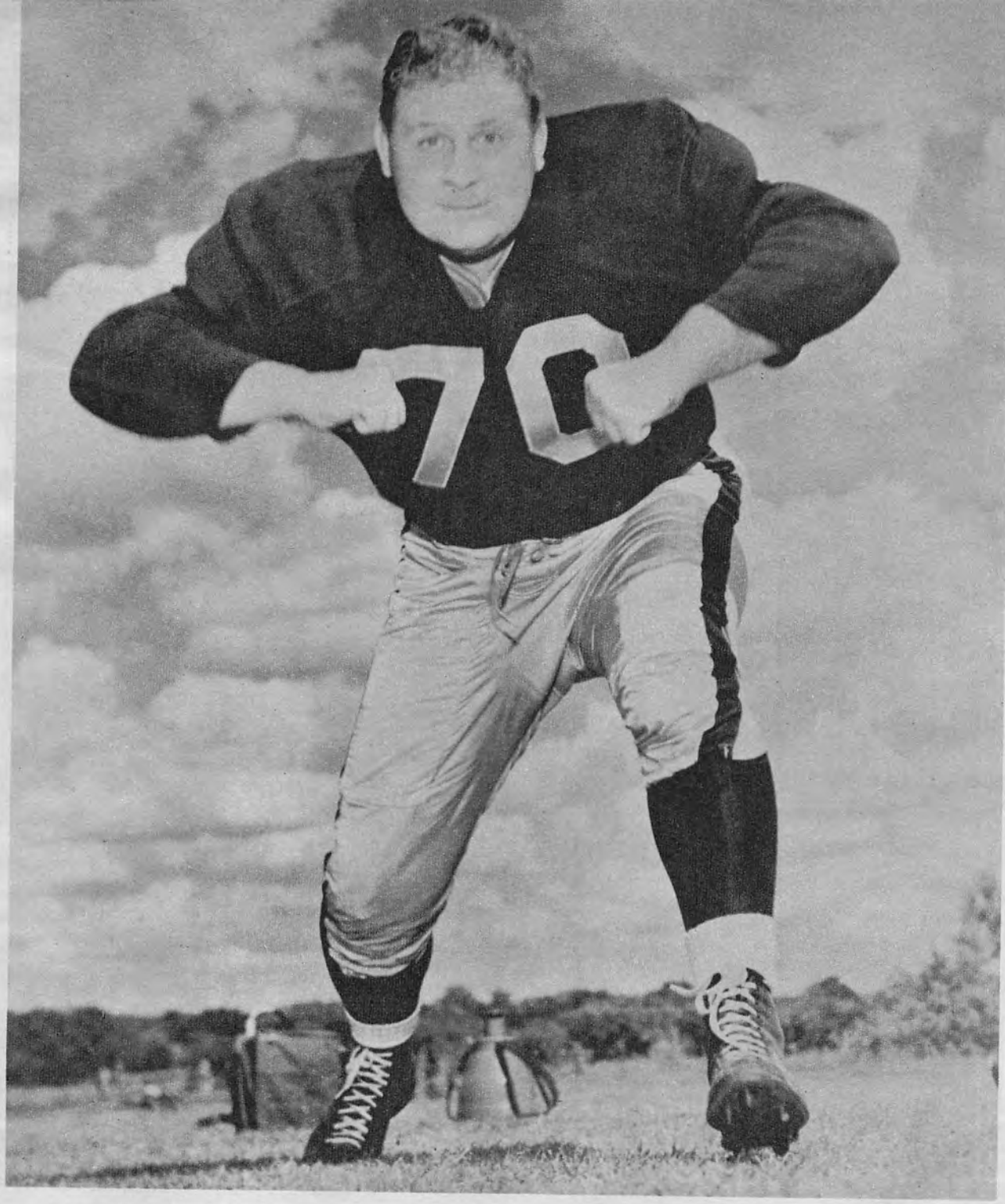
LB

WALT MICHAELS, Cleveland Browns: Before each play, Walt Michaels straddles the line of scrimmage, his back to the offensive huddle, wags a few fingers across his chest, roars a word of encouragement and steps into his linebacking slot. The play unfolds, and invariably the Cleveland defense, toughest in football, has it diagnosed right. More often than not, Michaels is the man who winds up making the tackle. Paul Brown didn't entrust him with the defensive quarterbacking until his fourth season as a pro. He's now a six-year man, all spent on defense, although the 230-pound husky from Pennsylvania's coal-mine district came out of Washington & Lee with a line-smashing fullback rep. His forte is tackling, with a viciousness that belies the mild dairy farmer he is during the off-season. Football runs in the family—brother Lou is currently an All-American tackle at Kentucky.



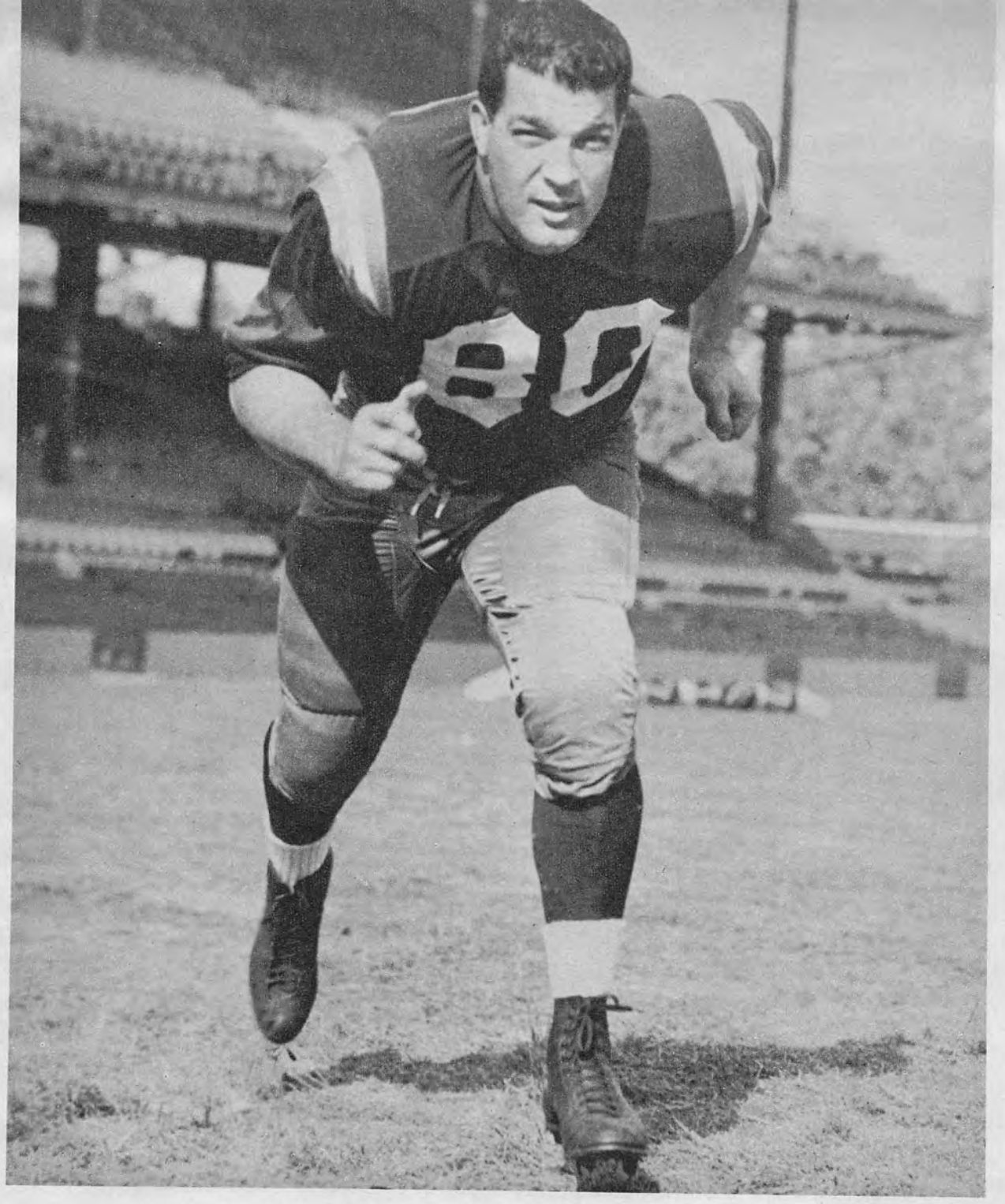
LB

JOE SCHMIDT, Detroit Lions: When Joe Schmidt was finishing up his college career at Pitt, under the eyes of the home-town Steelers, the word was to lay off the hard-nosed linebacker. Bad knees, they said. The weak hinges didn't deter the Detroit Lions, who've been paid off with the top defensive performance in football. This isn't a partisan opinion. When votes were tabulated for the All-Players All-Pro team last fall, the man who received the most for his position wasn't a Hill or a Gifford. The pros themselves went for Schmidt. He's a quiet, respected leader, captain of the Lions, their player representative, defensive signal caller. More than that, the 25-year-old, 225-pounder is a devastating tackler, a quick pass defender and alert enough to recover eight fumbles in one season. These attributes have been on display four seasons. The knees? "They never felt better," says Joe.

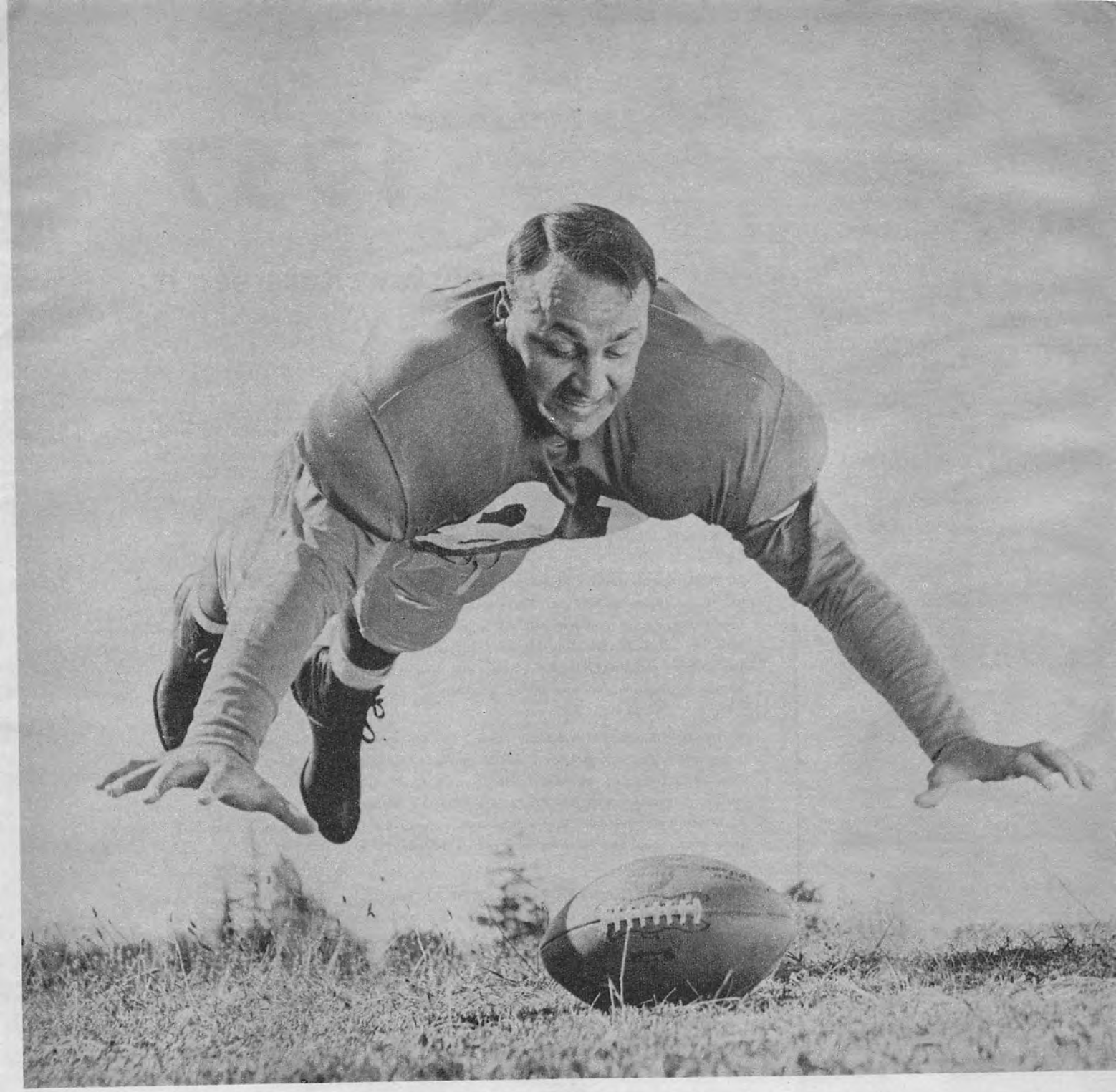


T ART DONOVAN, Baltimore Colts: In his eighth year in professional football, an elder statesman of 31, Li'l Arthur Donovan still gets sick in the Colts' dressing room before each game. The tremendous emotionalism he brings to his job results in a charged-up performance once he gets on the field. When you have 265 pounds, more or less, brought into play, try handling it. Donnie's forte is keeping backs who fake possession honest. After he pounces on them a couple of times, they generally shy from coming into the line. This takes the guile away from the T and leaves the valid ball carrier exposed. The son of the famous fight referee, a native Bronxite, he wanted to play football for Notre Dame but was cut from the squad. He wound up at Boston College, struggled through pro tenures with the Boston Yanks and Dallas Texans before gaining recognition with Baltimore as a tackle you just don't budge.

BOB GAIN, Cleveland Browns: For his own personal prestige, Bob Gain has been too handy a guy for the Cleveland Browns. A tackle by trade, he was thrust into a middle-guard role a couple of years ago and spent half of last season playing end when an emergency developed there. Any place, he's tops, and the Cleveland Touchdown Club must think so, too, because it voted him the most valuable of all the Browns. Putting him back in his normal role is quite a tribute in itself because the Browns already have available at tackle Don Colo and John Kissell, two solid pros. One must yield to Gain, who's 6-3, weighs 250 and is seasoned, at 28, by three full years with the team. He was originally an All-American at Kentucky, winner of the Outland award as the nation's best lineman and drafted by Green Bay in 1951. The Browns got him in a trade a year later, the kind you like to make.



E GENE BRITO, Washington Redskins: Any blocker who tries to hold his ground against Gene Brito is inviting grass stains on the seat of the pants. The general tactic in protecting a passer is an elbow thrust against the rusher while jockeying for balance. A determined pursuer like Brito, backing his charge with 230 pounds, wades through it like a scythe. The Baltimore Colts in desperation last year decided the only way to handle him was to initiate the charge no matter what type of block was in order. If you let Brito carry his charge across the line of scrimmage, take the 10-yard loss and try again. It should be fairly evident he rates as the top man in football at harassing a passer. He's also smart and experienced at 31 and a sure tackler. His hands should be good. At Loyola in Los Angeles he was a star pass receiver before he grew into defensive dimensions six seasons ago.



ANDY ROBUSTELLI, New York Giants: To play defensive end in pro football today requires a special blend of scatback and bruiser—with strength to blunt an advance echelon of blockers and quickness to protect the flanks against passes, or rush the thrower. These qualities the Los Angeles Rams let slip through their hands when they traded Andy Robustelli to the New York Giants last year. True, he threatened to quit unless they did because he wanted to be near his sporting-goods business in Connecticut. But the Rams really suspected that this sturdy veteran of 29 was beginning to slip. He recovered in the New York setting to become the champs' defensive ace. After six seasons there isn't a move or fake that can fool him. He knows instinctively when to rush and when to drop back, and he weighs a hard-rock 230 pounds that pulverizes ball carriers. Andy came out of little Arnold College.

1957

as the sportswriters see it

Eastern

BOB AUGUST, Cleveland Press: "The Giants appear a good bet to repeat in the Eastern division. A solid team, although probably not a great one, young enough to stay on top another year. Injuries at key spots could prove disastrous, but that's true of most clubs. The Cardinals, with proven running game, get my vote for second over the Browns, who will be tough defensively again but still aren't sure about the quarterbacking. Then, in order, come the Redskins, Eagles and Steelers to wind it up."

ED FRIEL, Newark News: "As pleasant as it was covering the New York Giants all the way to the championship last year, Cleveland has to be the pick here to represent the Eastern Conference. Paul Brown has patched up enough holes to make it this time. The Giants rate the runner-up spot. Any big surprise should come from Pittsburgh or Washington. Philadelphia and the Chicago Cardinals will have too many bad games to get into contention in a league that pays off on consistency."

HOWARD ROBERTS, Chicago Daily News: "The Chicago Cardinals, with better depth and improved quarterbacking from Lamar McHan and Paul Larson, will be a surprise winner. The Giants are sound, especially defensively, but will miss Rosey Grier and so will finish no better than second. I look for the Browns to bounce back for a third place finish ahead of Washington, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Helping the Cards dominate the East will be some good 'deep' pass receivers for a change this year."

HUGH BROWN, Philadelphia Bulletin: "With no respect for injuries, derailments, crazy bounces, my Eastern division pick goes like this—New York (still very well rounded club despite Grier loss); Cleveland (much improved with Jimmy Brown acquisition, backfield returnees); Chicago Cards (got to figure them because of great backfield); Philadelphia (local patriotism mainly, top-notch draft); Washington (well coached, but no outstanding personnel); and Pittsburgh (badly need quarterback, other cogs)."

DAVE SLATTERY, Washington News: "The Eastern division title is up for grabs despite the fact New York is the defending NFL champ. Cleveland, the Chicago Cards, Pittsburgh and Washington all rate title chances if they solve their quarterback problems and escape injuries. That's what won it for the Giants—few bruises, steady quarterbacking by Don Heinrich and Charley Conerly. I don't think they'll get the same performances again. Only Philadelphia, rebuilding, is out of the picture."

PAT LIVINGSTON, Pittsburgh Press: "Since the law of averages throws an occasional bone to any old dog, this is as good a year as any for the Steelers in the East, mainly because I anticipate a retrogression by the Giants and continuing Brown backfield problems. New York's loss of Rosey Grier is catastrophic. The Eagles, Redskins and Cardinals hardly have the talent to go all the way, although Joe Kuharich is sure to pull a miracle one of these years. Steeler help comes from quarterback Len Dawson."

Western

SID ZIFF, Los Angeles Mirror: "Bears look strong enough to stay on top for a couple more years. Lions amazed everybody, barely lost out. Rams have finest rookie crop in league, must improve player-coach relations. Forty-Niners were coming fast at close of last season. Colts have great potential, some player dissatisfaction with coaching. Packers could rise above their predicted cellar position if they get back doubtful vets and improve defense. This is how the teams will finish in the West."

ROGER WILLIAMS, San Francisco News: "Having picked both the Giants and Bears to win last year, plus Giants in playoff, I'd be smart if I never made another pick. But I'll brave it, anyhow in the West, as follows: 1—Chicago (strongest team going in); 2—Los Angeles (great draft); 3—Detroit (solid, but Layne must deliver); 4—San Francisco (could be low rating them); 5—Baltimore (will give leaders plenty of trouble); 6—Green Bay (will fight Colts for dubious honor of last place). Oh yes, I still like the Giants."

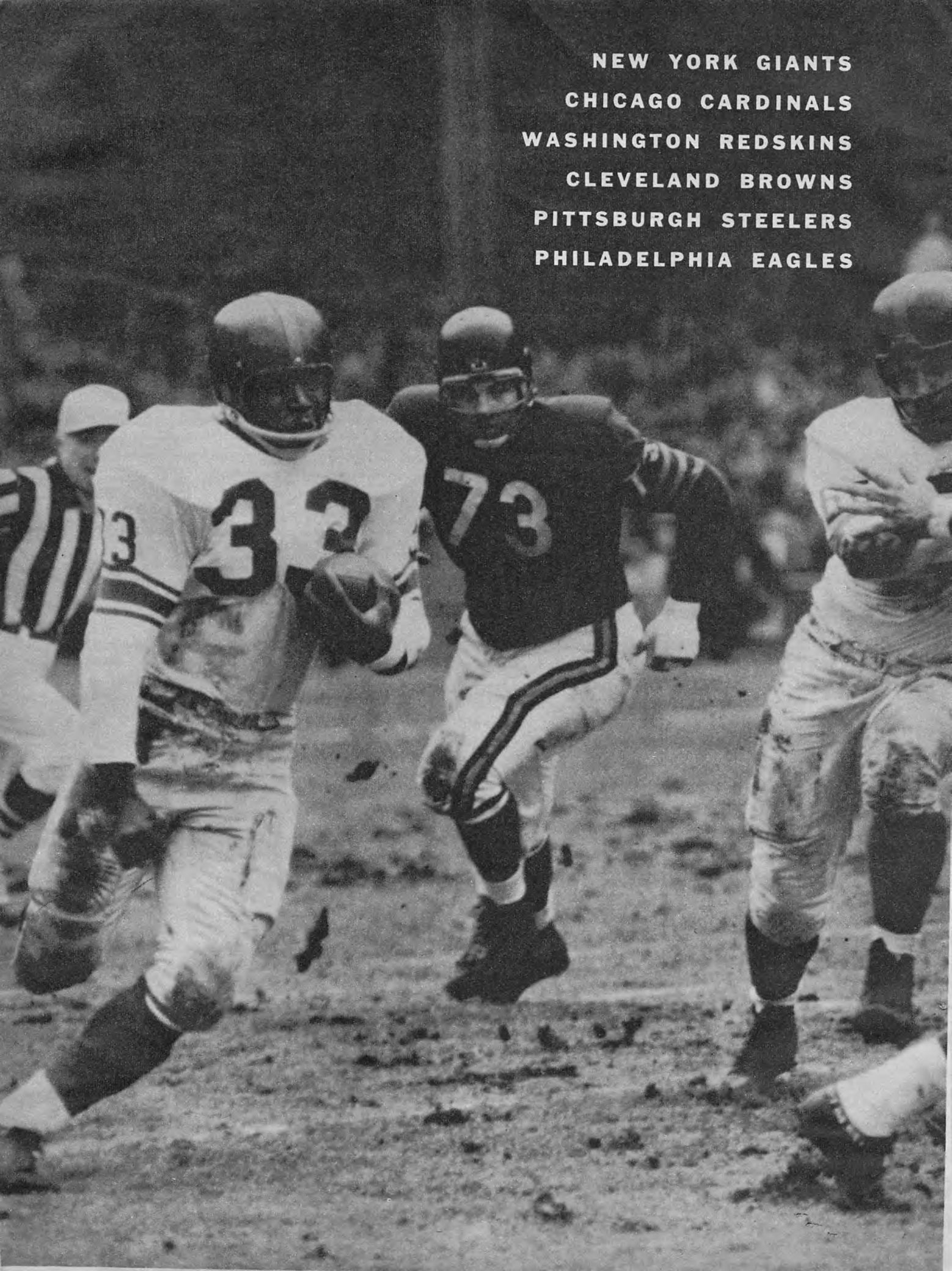
OLIVER KUECHLE, Milwaukee Journal: "Same order of finish in the Western division, except perhaps in the lower stratas. The Bears should win it again with a brilliant offense. The Lions should push again with an extremely sound defense, but so much depends on growing inconsistencies of Bobby Layne. Los Angeles has wealth of material, but sniping makes it tough place to coach. The Colts could surprise. San Francisco will go as McElhenny goes. The Packers still need offensive linemen to go with Rote."

WALTER TAYLOR, Baltimore Sun: "The Chicago Bears behind Ed Brown, Rick Casares and Harlon Hill appear too strong again and will be chased to the wire a second straight year by Detroit. Thereafter things will be in a muddle. Newcomers Jim Parker and Don Shinnick strengthen Baltimore. Coach Frankie Albert has San Francisco in a renaissance. Los Angeles won't lose the ball on errors as much. Quite conceivably, these three will tie for third. Green Bay is rebuilding, but somebody has to finish last."

TOMMY DEVINE, Detroit Free Press: "The Chicago Bears to repeat as the Western division champs. The Bears will have a tight battle again with the Detroit Lions but possess that "extra" that makes winners. Zeke Bratkowski, returned from service, and Ed Brown will provide excellent passing to couple with the running threat of Rick Casares. Detroit's hopes rest solely on another fine year by the veteran Bobby Layne. I figure the others in this order: Green Bay, Los Angeles, Baltimore, San Francisco."

LEO FISCHER, Chicago American: "The theory is not to bet against a champion, especially if it looks like he's coming back stronger than ever. The Bears will be just as potent offensively as last year, when they topped everything. I'm sure they'll come up with some defense, too—their only weak spot. With every team improved, it's a good guess the Western division winner will lose three, maybe four. Remaining order of finish: Detroit, Green Bay, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Baltimore."

THE consensus votes of these expert analysts from both branches of the National Football League makes the Chicago Bears unqualifiedly the unanimous favorite in the Western Conference, leaves the defending championship Giants on less solid ground in the East. All six Western consultants are impressed with the resounding offense of the Bears, pick them to win. Two Eastern writers were firmly for the Giants, but three scattered votes and one open ballot are no great show of confidence in the champs.


NEW YORK GIANTS
CHICAGO CARDINALS
WASHINGTON REDSKINS
CLEVELAND BROWNS
PITTSBURGH STEELERS
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

eastern conference

new york giants

Jim Lee Howell

Only Rosey Grier, a big one, is missing from the Giant cast that brought New York its first pro title in 18 years—but shallow reserves keep champs from getting complacent

PREDICTION—THIRD

OFFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	McAfee, Ken	205	6-2	28	4	Alabama	Still need someone to catch the deep pass. McAfee has speed, Rote the fakes but no one has both. RATING—Fair
	Rote, Kyle	205	6-0	29	7	SMU	
	Schnelker, Bob	215	6-4	27	5	Bowling Green	
	Topp, Bob	190	6-2	25	2	Michigan	
T	Brown, Roosevelt	245	6-3	25	5	Morgan St.	Brown probably best offensive lineman in game. Yelvington a good one, too. RATING—Excellent
	Yelvington, Dick	235	6-2	28	6	Georgia	
	DeLuca, Sam	220	6-2	23	1	So. Carolina	
G	Austin, Bill	225	6-1	28	7	Oregon	Last year Stroud passed Austin as best running guard on club. Beck, supposed to be quitting, may start. RATING—Good
	Stroud, Jack	230	6-1	28	5	Tennessee	
	Beck, Ray	225	6-2	25	4	Ga. Tech	
	Huth, Gerald	210	6-0	24	2	Wake Forest	
C	Wietecha, Ray	225	6-1	28	5	Northwestern	Coaches claim Wietecha is best center in eastern division, maybe NFL. RATING—Very good
	Massa, Ron	220	6-3	22	1	Holy Cross	
	Stone, Jerry	210	6-3	22	1	Mississippi	
Q	Conerly, Charley	195	6-1	33	10	Mississippi	Again the platoon, with aging Conerly the pitcher, Heinrich the ball handler. RATING—Fair
	Heinrich, Don	180	6-0	26	4	Washington	
	Clatterbuck, Bob	195	6-3	25	4	Houston	
H	Webster, Alex	210	6-3	26	3	No. Car. St.	No better pair of halfbacks in game than Gifford, Webster. Frank No. 1 in game. Filipski can relieve, Mendyk may go to end. RATING—Excellent
	Gifford, Frank	205	6-1	27	6	USC	
	Filipski, Gene	185	5-11	26	2	Villanova	
	Mendyk, Dennis	190	6-0	22	1	Mich. St.	
	Tharp, Corky	185	5-10	24	1	Alabama	
F	Triplett, Mel	215	6-1	25	3	Toledo	Triplett's problem is holding on to ball, but his blocking sets up ground game. RATING—Good
	Epps, Bobby	205	5-8	26	3	Pitt	
	Chandler, Don	205	6-2	22	2	Florida	

SYSTEM—Straight T. PLAYER LOSSES—None. STRENGTH—Top halfback pair in football, center, outstanding tackles. WEAKNESS—No really top-flight end, fluctuating quarterback situation. RATING—Good.

DEFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Robustelli, Andy	230	6-1	29	7	Arnold	No question about Robustelli, but Yowarsky doesn't have speed or mobility of top defensive end. RATING—Good
	Yowarsky, Walt	235	6-2	29	6	Kentucky	
	Livingston, Cliff	215	6-3	26	4	UCLA	
	Nery, Ron	230	6-5	22	1	Kansas St.	
T	Modzelewski, Dick	260	6-0	26	5	Maryland	The crux of Giant problem with Rosy Grier in Army. Little Mo staunch. Toogood might be the answer. RATING—Fair
	Bauer, John	260	6-3	25	2	Illinois	
	Katcavage, Jim	225	6-3	22	2	Dayton	
	Toogood, Charley	230	6-0	30	7	Nebraska	
M	Huff, Sam	230	6-1	22	2	W. Va.	A real surprise in '56 was way Huff starred. RATING—Very good
	Burnham, Bruce	200	5-10	22	1	Tennessee	
LB	Svoboda, Bill	210	6-1	28	8	Tulane	Svo and Sva are old pros, not real big but quick and have been around long enough to know all tricks. RATING—Very good
	Svare, Harlan	215	6-0	26	5	Wash. St.	
	Mangum, Pete	200	6-0	26	2	Mississippi	
	Deutschman, Leo	230	6-1	22	1	LSU	
H	Nolan, Dick	185	6-1	25	4	Maryland	Everyone faults Nolan and Hughes but Giants won with them. Henry Moore concentration on defense offers boost. RATING—Fair
	Hughes, Ed	180	6-1	25	4	Tulsa	
	Moore, Henry	197	6-1	23	2	Arkansas	
	Nieman, Jim	170	6-0	22	1	Cincinnati	
S	Tunnell, Emlen	200	6-1	32	10	Iowa	Tunnell, supposed to be slipping, came back strong in '56. Patton came along strong. Chance for rookies too. RATING—Good
	Patton, Jim	180	5-11	25	3	Mississippi	
	Bookman, John	170	5-11	22	1	Miami (Fla.)	
	Crawford, Ed	185	6-2½	23	1	Mississippi	

PLAYER LOSSES—Tackle Roosevelt Grier. STRENGTH—Middle guard, Robustelli at one end, quick linebackers. WEAKNESS—Need one end, and need tackle desperately, secondary could prove porous to passes. RATING—Fair.

FOR a team that returns 32 of the 33 men who buried the Chicago Bears under a 47-7 avalanche to win the National Football League championship last December 30, the New York Giants exhibit little complacency.

It could be because the one man who won't be around is Roosevelt Grier, 275-pound giant of a tackle who made most of the all-pro teams. His absence would create a void on any team.

Or, it could be because the Giants realize the blessings of luck that encompassed their efforts last season and enabled them to go through a full campaign with a minimum loss of key personnel, while their Eastern division foes were suffering the usual injuries.

Coach Jim Lee Howell's third year in charge of the Giants justified his concept of divided authority as the key to building a successful pro organization. The NFL has always been dominated by powerful individualists: George Halas, Curly Lambeau, Paul Brown—one-man empires of success. Howell, by contrast, is something of a shrinking violet and, in fact, has been accused of not being coach of his own team.

His offense is run with a strong hand by Vince Lombardi and is unlike any other in the game. The Giants haven't succumbed to the slot-T or wing-T fads. Only seldom are their halfbacks way out on the flank. Theirs is a power-T, strong on the blocking and

United Press

A typical Giant thrust finds guard Jack Stroud (66) bearing down on a tackler to provide a running alley for halfback Alex Webster

Rookie: Dennis Mendyk
The Giant quest for speed could be solved by this high-stepping rookie from Michigan State, who played most of his college career in the shadow of Clarence Peaks but emerged the last half of '56 as a breakaway tailback. He may switch to end

Pros' Pro: Ray Wietecha
The 225-pound veteran center is fast enough to pull out of the line for interference. He's so efficient the Giant coaches don't hesitate to design plays on which he blocks toward the strength. They know he'll get his man. Great, underrated pivot man

running, and complemented, not dominated, by passing.

The all-important pass defenses are set up by Tom Landry, erstwhile key figure in the Giant secondary. Ken Kavanaugh mothers the ends. Howell is the coordinator and the man who supplies the material to meet the needs.

Last time he was caught surveying the roster on the blackboard in the Giants' spanking new offices high up in the Coliseum Building, a furrow rippled the brow under his almost white hair.

Until some more eligible candidate comes along, Grier's tackle vacancy has to go by default to Jim Katcavage, who spent his rookie year filling in at defensive end and tackle. There's some dissatisfaction with the defensive secondary—none of them considered really top pro personnel, although the veteran Em Tunnell reaps lots of publicity. They could use another linebacker, a defensive end, an offensive tackle and a couple of offensive ends.

This is not to intimate the Giants are hurting at these positions. It's simply that, after the first NFL banner in 18 years, the champs like the idea of the $3500 playoff loot that goes to each player. They figure standing still is a step backward.

In certain positions, of course, they can't ask for more. You start with the offensive halfbacks: Frank Gifford and Alex Webster. Gifford won the Jim Thorpe trophy given to the top individual performer in the game. Webster, reputedly the slowest halfback in pro ranks, is an instinctively shrewd runner who utilizes his 210 pounds. Relief is supplied by Gene Filipski, a speedboy with an explosive burst, and maybe newcomer Corky Tharp. The prize backfield rookie is Michigan State's Dennis Mendyk, but he may be switched to end if his speed lives up to advance notices and he can hang on to the ball.

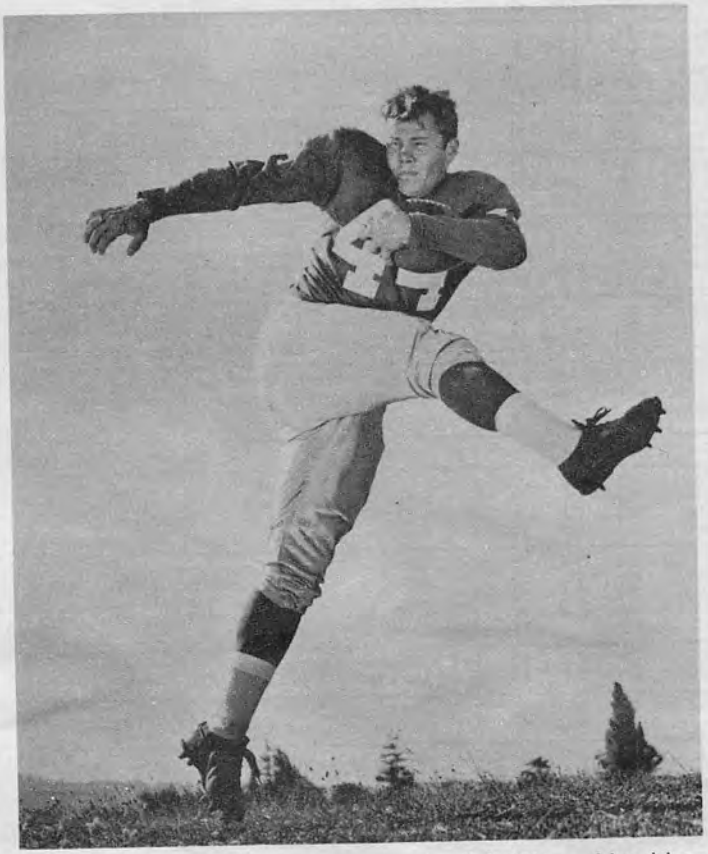
Fullback Mel Triplett's trouble is he can't be trusted with the ball in key situations, but there's no better blocker any place, and squat Bobby Epps makes a good line-smashing reserve. Quarterback is split again between grizzled Charley Conerly and slick Don Heinrich, who satisfy their coaches and hardly anyone else. Conerly, a boo-target for years, made converts as a relief pitcher. Heinrich, the smooth ball handler whose passing is faulted, would start. If he bogged down during the first half, Charley would replace him for the route. There is no dexterity at all to his handoffs, but his passing arm always could hit a target. The Giants got away with this platooning once and may be pressing their luck with it in '57. Conerly's no chicken. He's listed as 33, but is probably closer to 36 years of age.

What kept the pressure off a year ago was an offensive line which suddenly jelled after several years of integration. Giant coaches insist no center surpasses Ray Wietecha, a mobile 230-pounder. Jack Stroud, once a knee casualty, was 100 percent mobile. He outstripped running mate Bill Austin at guard. If Austin falters, Ray Beck may be induced to postpone his planned retirement. Roosevelt Brown, now at nearly 260 pounds, is ranked the No. 1 offensive tackle in football. Dick Yelvington is a sustaining pro, with rookie Sam DeLuca given a chance to push him. Only the ends bother the Giant brass. Neither Ken McAfee nor Kyle Rote delivers the desired blocking, and Rote alone freely maneuvers for passes.

On defense, Sam Huff, the surprise of 1956, is entrenched at middle guard, with Little Mo Modzelewski comfortably lodged alongside at tackle.The Giants want to take a long look at John Bauer, 275, and vet Charley Toogood in Grier's spot. Andy Robustelli had a remarkable '56 campaign at defensive end, but Walt Yowarsky, his opposite number, is nowhere near the same class. Linebacker Bill Svoboda is the guts of the Giant defense—unbelievably slow for this fast brand of ball but a tremendous competitor, and smart.

The best tribute to the defensive backs—Dick Nolan, Ed Hughes, Jim Patton and Tunnell—is that the Giants won with them. They're not robust and they seldom intercept passes. Howell's big experiment is switching Henry Moore from the offensive unit. Based on his collegiate record, the 197-pounder from Arkansas has the range to become an outstanding defender. There's help possible from lanky Ed Crawford, a rookie from Mississippi.

Added depth is desirable in all pro squads. But first you need the one good player for each position, something the Giants have.



Kyle Rote . . . faker deluxe

Bill Svoboda . . . football's Eddie Stanky

Mel Triplett . . . bowls 'em over

chicago cardinals

Ray Richards

Temperamental McHan triggers optimism of Cardinals. The team needs passing attack to match quality of its pass defense and to balance running of the great Matson

PREDICTION—SECOND

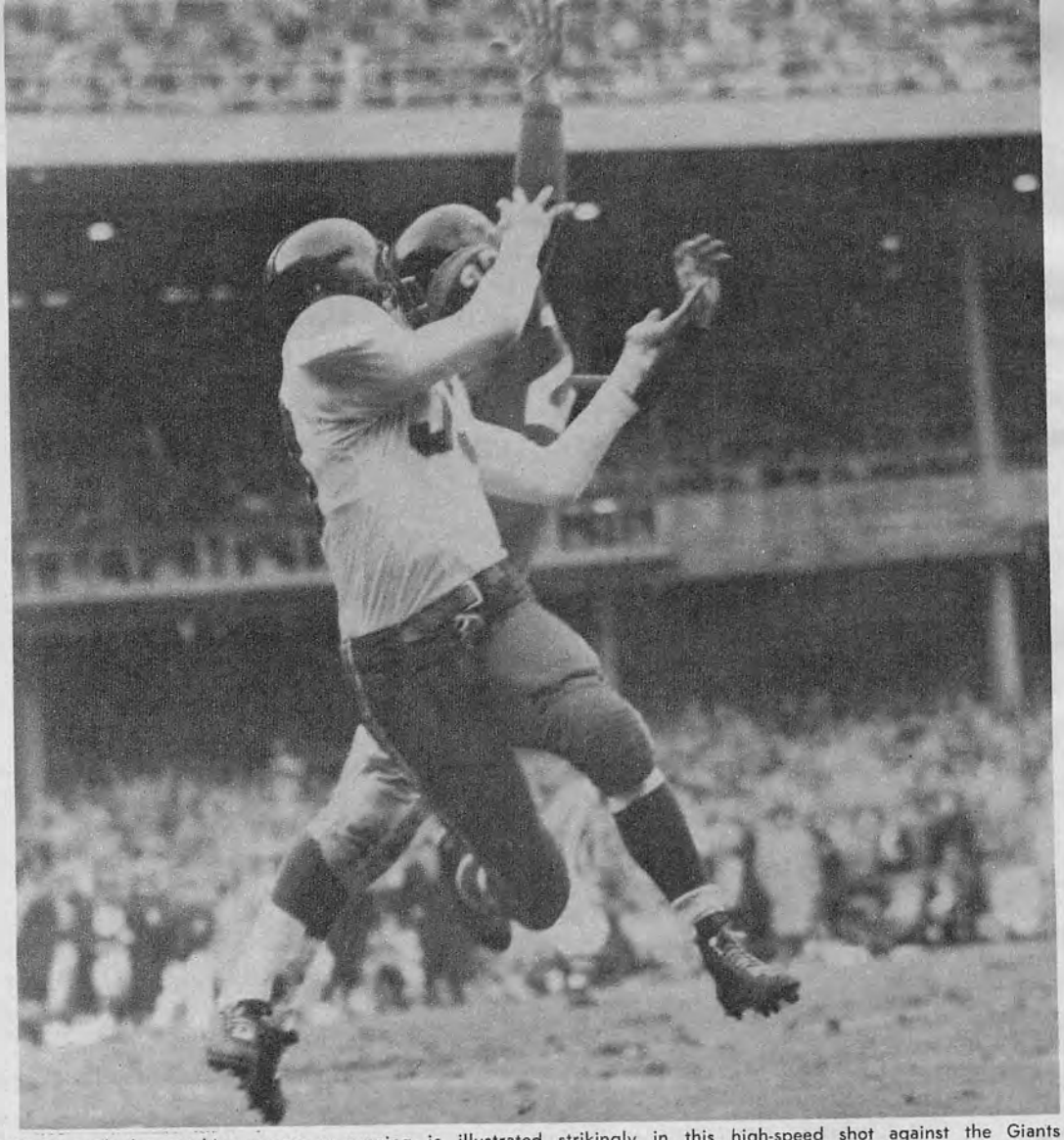
OFFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Stonesifer, Don	200	6-0	30	7	Northwestern	Good balance, with Nagler long threat, Stonesifer superb short catcher. Quality behind them too (Boydston). RATING—Very good
	Nagler, Gern	190	6-2	24	4	Santa Clara	
	Boydston, Max	207	6-2	25	3	Oklahoma	
	Husser, Huey	190	6-3	23	1	La. Tech	
	Mann, Dave	190	6-1	25	3	Ore. St.	
T	Jennings, Jack	245	6-4	30	8	Ohio State	Jennings, in eighth season, at peak. Dahms steady. Bock a possibility. RATING—Good
	Dahms, Tom	249	6-5	29	7	San Diego St.	
	Bock, Wayne	260	6-4	22	1	Illinois	
G	Hogland, Doug	240	6-3	26	5	Ore. St.	Hogland, Konovsky did fine job in '56—ultra-big guards for speed they possess; Jagielski a hopeful. RATING—Good
	Konovsky, Bob	245	6-2	23	2	Wisconsin	
	Jagielski, Harry	240	6-0	25	2	Indiana	
	Hartshorn, Larry	225	6-1	24	2	Kansas St.	
C	Klim, Ron	240	6-1	21	1	W. Va.	Tender spot. Want Tubbs to back line, but Klim raw. RATING—Poor
	Tubbs, Jerry	205	6-2	22	1	Oklahoma	
Q	McHan, Lamar	197	6-1	25	4	Arkansas	If problem-child McHan toes mark, he's suitable split-T qb. Larson joins him. RATING—Fair
	Root, Jim	187	6-1½	26	3	Miami (O.)	
	Larson, Paul	178	5-11	25	1	California	
H	Matson, Ollie	210	6-2	27	5	USF	Matson combines best, all you ask of great back. Mann switch to end leaves Childress in charge. RATING—Excellent
	Childress, Joe	195	6-0	23	2	Auburn	
	Bernardi, Frank	180	5-9	24	3	Colorado	
	Burl, Alex	165	5-10	25	2	Colo. A&M	
F	Olszewski, John	200	5-11	26	5	California	Johnny O gets big assist from Hammack, who had him beat out before Army. RATING—Good
	Hammack, Mel	200	6-2	23	2	Florida	
	Bredde, Bill	195	6-1	24	2	Okla. A&M	

SYSTEM—Split T. PLAYER LOSSES—Guard John Dittrich. STRENGTH—No one better than Matson, guards and tackles well set. WEAKNESS—Center a pressing problem, and McHan not always reliable qb. RATING—Good.

DEFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Summerall, Pat	225	6-4	27	6	Arkansas	For size, Sugar is best. Age improves Summerall. Like the looks of rookie Maentz who can go both ways. RATING—Good
	Sugar, Leo	210	6-1	28	4	Purdue	
	Weber, Charles	225	6-1	27	2	WestChester	
	Maentz, Tom	219	6-2	22	1	Michigan	
T	Teeuws, Len	245	6-5	28	6	Tulane	Plenty rugged cast if Ulrich, Pasquesi can shake injuries. Teeuws an old reliable, and Finnin acquisition important. RATING—Good
	Ulrich, Chuck	240	6-4	26	4	Illinois	
	Pasquesi, Tony	250	6-4	23	3	Notre Dame	
	Lunceford, Dave	240	6-4	22	1	Baylor	
	Finnin, Tom	250	6-2	28	5	Detroit	
M	West, Stan	235	6-2	30	8	Oklahoma	Not class-laden, lack speed, just so-so. RATING—Poor
	Husmann, Ed	225	6-0	25	3	Nebraska	
LB	Brettschneider, Carl	220	6-1	25	2	Iowa St.	Sanford knows way round. Tubbs will help, too. RATING—Fair
	Sanford, Leo	230	6-1	27	7	La. Tech	
H	Crow, Lindon	187	6-1	24	3	USC	Best in eastern division at pass pilfering. Lane an old hand and Crow led league. Strongest spot on defense. RATING—Excellent
	Lane, Dick	190	6-2	30	6	Scotts Bluff J.C.	
	Dupre, Charles	190	6-1	23	1	Baylor	
	Lewis, Woodley	188	6-0	32	8	Oregon	
S	Spence, Julian	175	5-11	26	1	Sam Houston	Spence the find of '56 and Hill a proven performer, with aid expected from Sagely. Army returnee Carr probably used on offense. RATING—Good
	Hill, Jim	190	6-2	29	3	Sam Houston	
	Carr, Jim	195	6-1	24	2	Morris Harvey	
	Sagely, Floyd	195	6-1	24	2	Arkansas	
	Leggett, Dave	198	6-2	24	2	Ohio St.	

PLAYER LOSSES—End Tom Bienemann. STRENGTH—Very alert secondary defense, especially against passing, ends do good job. WEAKNESS—Line lacks top mobility. RATING—Fair.

United Press



Smooth form of Ollie Matson, whether catching a pass or running, is illustrated strikingly in this high-speed shot against the Giants

THE Chicago Cardinals make no bones about their expectations for 1957. With the team that finished second virtually intact and a flock of excellent additions, Coach Ray Richards confidently notes, "We could move up one notch to the division championship."

Optimism is a healthy attitude, but the Cards will need an antidote for the lethargy that gripped them in mid-season and resulted in a miserable 2-4 record down the stretch. They had a couple of bad breaks when Lamar McHan decided for a short spell he didn't really care to be a pro quarterback. Two long touchdown runs by Ollie Matson which would have beaten the crosstown Bears were nullified by a referee's whistle.

Matson refuses to allow adverse referee decisions to keep him from rambling. About McHan's reluctance, Coach Richards insists, "With three years' experience behind him, McHan will be as good as any quarterback in the league."

The Cardinals got a tremendous jump on the rest of the league a year ago by springing an extreme split-T that, with the element of surprise and great running backs, carried them to five victories in the first six games. In the split-T, McHan is capable enough because he runs well. As long as the opposition bunched to stop the ground game, he passed well. But under the pressure of delivering in crucial spots, he's not what you'd call a top-flight passer. Unless Richards comes up with a new coaching wrinkle, McHan will be squarely on the spot.

The Cards talk hopefully of relief from Paul Larson, the Californian who's been away in the Army a couple of seasons and, like Mc-

Rookie: Jerry Tubbs
Coach Bud Wilkinson of Oklahoma rates this devastating linebacker the greatest leader in Sooner history. He never played in a losing game in college. A rangy 205-pounder, he was both a fullback and a center, but he's best at tackling

Pros' Pro: Don Stonesifer
In six seasons the Northwestern graduate has become the all-time leading pass receiver of the Cards. When they're bogged down, third and eight to go, they need only throw in his direction, because he's the best short catcher in football

Han, is a nifty runner suited to the split-T. There's doubt he can throw the long ball needed to keep the secondary loose.

One other change in the backfield involves right half, where Dave Mann had a terrible sophomore season. He will now try his luck at end. To take up the slack, the job will go to Joe Childress, an erstwhile fullback who was carefully broken in a year ago. They like his blocking prowess. Coming out of service to get in the scrap is Jimmy Carr, a 1955 find. Johnny Olszewski is a good fullback, somewhat smaller than his NFL contemporaries, but with great desire and a healthy burst of speed. He'll do. Mel Hammack, emerging from service, is another hope. He actually supplanted Olszewski for a few games.

The Cards would feel chipper about their offensive line, too, if center Jack Simmons hadn't retired. The field is wide open for rookie pretenders. One claque thinks Ron Klim of West Virginia is the answer. Another favors Jerry Tubbs, Oklahoma's unanimous All-American, although Tubbs is a natural to back up a line.

The guards and tackles are fortified. Doug Hogland and Bob Konovsky have the speed to get out in front of runners and the size to mow down defenders. Jack Jennings, a ripe 30, is at the peak of his tackle prowess. Tom Dahms is an average performer who may be stimulated by the challenge of Wayne Bock, a 260-pounder who played only freshman ball at Illinois but "moves like a cat."

The ends are in good hands—the sure mitts of veteran Don Stonesifer, best in the game at hauling in the short ones, and the long-range clutches of Gern Nagler, who has the speed of a track man. Max Boydston, slowed by injuries, is coming around. Mann, a good pass receiver, may settle down on the flank. On the surprise side, jot down the name of Huey Husser, a rangy Louisiana Tech freshman whom the scouts adore.

With this cast, the Cards are sure they can move the ball with consistency. What they'd like to do is keep the other team from hogging it too long. That was one of the big troubles last season. The Red Shirts weren't vulnerable to the smash play attack that results in a touchdown, boom-boom, because their secondary defense ranks as the most alert in the NFL. The line, however, was penetrable for the churning three or four yards a crack that means relinquishing ball control.

This was traceable, in part, to an injury string that plagued two tackles, Chuck Ulrich and Tony Pasquesi. If they're in shape and

Tom Finnin, acquired from the Colts, regains his form, the Cards are fortified. Len Teeuws is reliable. Matter of fact, Pasquesi could play middle guard, where the Cards need help. Stan West, the Oklahoma old-timer, is really too slow to move in and out of the line. He hurts the pass defense. The ends, combative Leo Sugar and placekicker Pat Summerall, are rated okay, with a flock of huskies ready to step in. Among them is Tom Maentz of Michigan, who figures to help both the offense and defense. He's big (219) and quick.

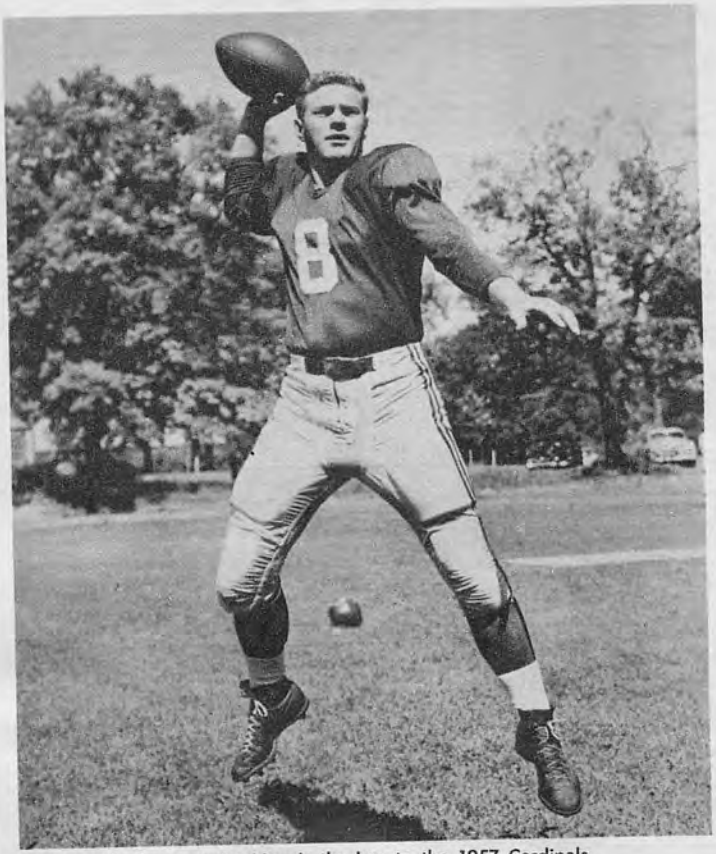
Confidence in the linebackers is reflected in the captaincy of Leo Sanford, a seven-year pro who's up near the top of the league. Like a good shortstop, he steadies his partner, second-year-man Carl Brettschneider.

Mentor Richards endorses his backfield.

"It was the best in either division last fall," he says, "and with the same personnel returning, we should be well set in this department. Lindon Crow won the pass-interception honors in the league."

Crow, a developing kid from Southern California, is ready to take his place with the Christiansens and Dillons in the NFL. He plucked off a phenomenal 11 stray tosses and returned them 170 yards. His running mate, the fabulous Night Train Lane, kept alert with seven interceptions, third best. Lane holds the all-time league record of 14, which he set back in 1952.

The blanketing net against passes is completed by Julian Spence, a free-agent pickup in 1956 who responded amazingly, and Jim Hill, a solid third-year entry. Oldie Woodley Lewis and rookie Charley Dupre are the likely fill-ins to round out the aerial defense.



Lamar McHan's quarterbacking is the key to the 1957 Cardinals

Johnny Olszewski . . . boom boy

Gern Nagler . . . long gainer

Night Train Lane . . . pass-snatcher

washington redskins

Joe Kuharich

The Redskins must do it with mirrors! In spite of a roster which reveals mostly lightweights and castoffs, the team almost grabbed the Eastern crown, twice straight

PREDICTION—FOURTH

OFFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Meilinger, Steve	221	6-2	24	2	Kentucky	Ends are not only fine pass receivers but untypically strong blockers. Meilinger a budding star. RATING—Very good
	Carson, John	200	6-2½	27	4	Georgia	
	Barker, Ed	200	6-3	25	2	Wash. St.	
	Walton, Joe	214	6-0	22	1	Pitt	
T	Boll, Don	272	6-2	30	5	Nebraska	Drafting John Miller leaves void for rookie to step in. Frankenberger choice. Boll heads ground attack. RATING—Fair
	Anderson, Ormond	220	6-1	27	1	Ga. Tech	
	Frankenberger, J.T.	235	6-4	22	1	Kentucky	
	Norman, Jim	240	6-2	23	2	None	
G	Stanfel, Dick	229	6-3	30	6	USF	If Stanfel comes back as expected he and Stephens will mop up all tacklers. RATING—Excellent
	Stephens, Red	227	6-0	27	3	USF	
	Sakach, Ed	235	5-10	22	1	Geo. Wash.	
C	Allen, Johnny	227	6-2½	24	3	Purdue	Nothing sensational, but not weak either. RATING—Good
	Schrader, Jim	236	6-2	24	3	Notre Dame	
Q	Dorow, Al	190	6-0	27	4	Mich. St.	Dorow, little LeBaron again to divvy time, try to escape hurts of '56. RATING—Fair
	LeBaron, Ed	165	5-7	27	5	COP	
	Wyant, Fred	199	6-0	23	1	W. Va.	
H	Runnels, Tom	185	5-9	23	2	N. Texas St.	Real pony boy brigade, slippery and all tough despite puny size. Rookie Sutton has heft to add. RATING—Good
	James, Dick	180	5-9	23	2	Oregon	
	Sutton, Ed	207	6-1	22	1	No. Carolina	
	Wells, Billy	178	5-9	24	3	Mich. St.	
F	Elter, Leo	205	5-11	27	5	Villanova	Addition of Bosseler gives club power possibilities. Elter a steady, strong hand, Baker kicking star. RATING—Good
	Bosseler, Don	207	6-1	22	1	Miami (Fla.)	
	Atkeson, Dale	215	6-2	26	4	None	
	Baker, Sam	213	6-2	27	3	Oregon St.	

SYSTEM—Standard T. PLAYER LOSSES—Tackle John Miller. STRENGTH—Great blocking all along line; slippery backs. WEAKNESS—Erratic passing, one tackle spot. RATING—Good.

DEFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Brito, Gene	230	6-2	31	6	Loyola	Brito made rep by rushing passer, not weak at other side either with tested Ostrowski. RATING—Very good
	Ostrowski, Chet	235	6-2	27	4	Notre Dame	
	Dee, Bob	225	6-4	24	1	Holy Cross	
	Lopata, Paul	198	6-1	22	1	Yale	
T	Kimmel, J. D.	257	6-4	28	3	Houston	Kimmel and Peters are solid pros, not pushed around. Could be faster. RATING—Good
	Peters, Volney	240	6-4	29	6	USC	
	Ready, Bob	240	6-3	25	1	Notre Dame	
M	Drazenovich, Chuck	224	6-1	30	8	Penn State	Drazenovich is top-ranked by all rivals. RATING—Excellent
	Davis, Jack	215	5-11	24	1	Maryland	
LB	Torgeson, Lavern	222	6-0	28	7	Wash. St.	Torgy a bulwark but lacks speed to defend against passing. Felton shows signs of high caliber play. RATING—Fair
	Brodsky, Joe	206	6-2	23	1	Florida	
	Felton, Ralph	209	5-11	25	4	Maryland	
	Fulcher, Bill	190	6-0	23	2	Ga. Tech	
H	Barni, Roy	185	5-11	30	5	USF	DeCarlo, improving, could rank with best, but others just so-so, probably go with Barni. RATING—Fair
	DeCarlo, Art	196	6-2	27	3	Georgia	
	Hagerty, Jim	187	6-1	23	1	Wash. St.	
	Lowe, Gary	200	5-11	23	2	Mich. St.	
S	Hecker, Norb	196	6-2	30	6	Bald. Wall.	Hecker a solid vet and no player in game with more guts than tiny Scudero. RATING—Fair
	Scudero, Joe	171	5-10	27	4	USF	
	Podoley, Jim	200	6-2	22	1	Cent. Mich.	

PLAYER LOSSES—None. STRENGTH—End, middle linebacker. WEAKNESS—Lack of speed behind line and in couple of spots in the secondary. RATING—Fair.

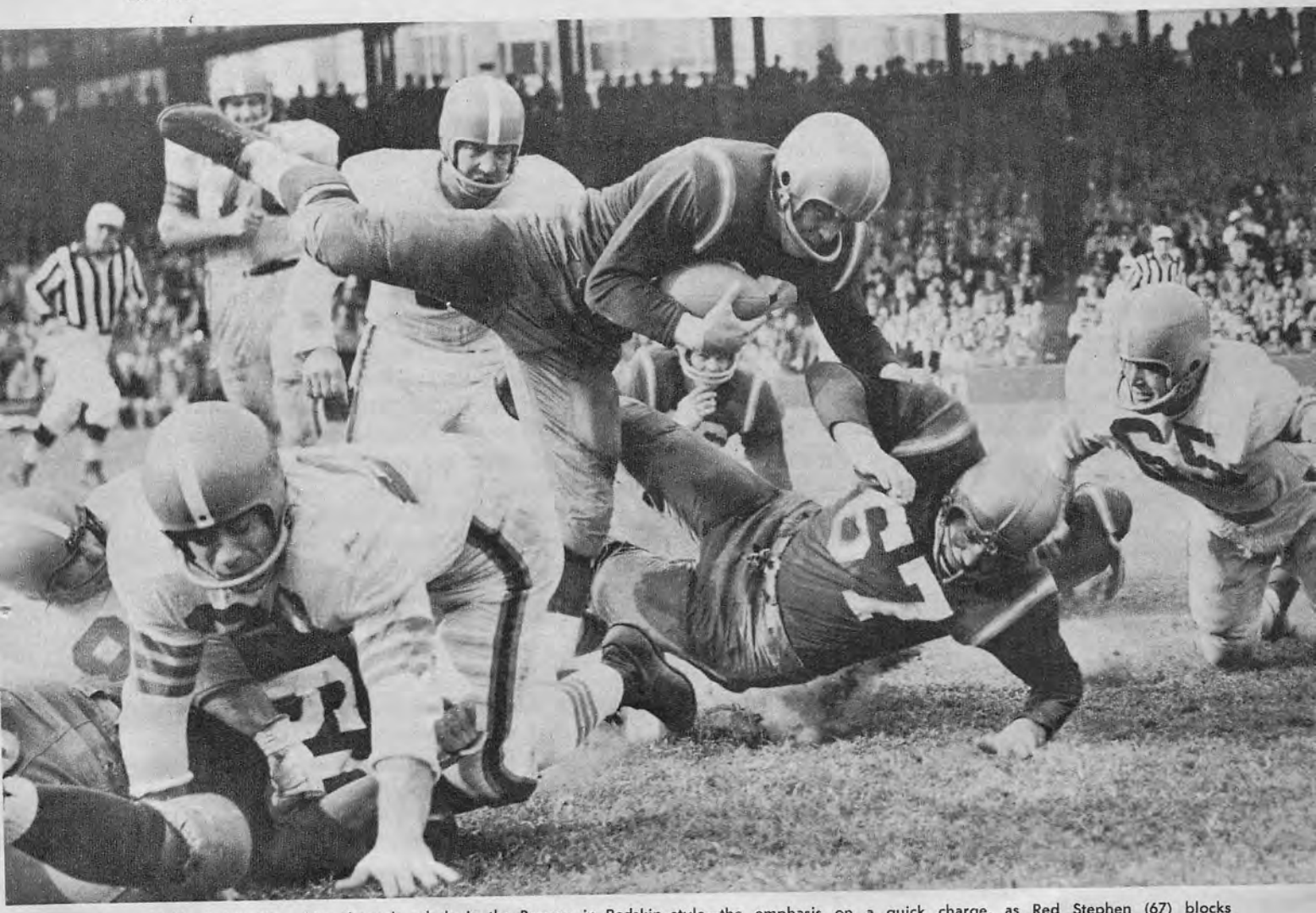
IF a logician were to go on the facts at hand he would have had fits trying to figure out the Washington Redskins the last couple of years. This is a club that, on paper, doesn't seem to have anything. Yet both seasons they've made strong runs for the Eastern division title and have been in contention until the closing weeks, completely surprising everyone.

They have no real stars to speak of. The backs are small and, for the most part, nonentities. The whole squad, in fact, seems to be a mish-mash of average individuals no one else sought particularly. Their coach is an ordinary Joe—last name, Kuharich. He's merely done the best job of personnel direction the past two seasons in professional football. He also developed a few blocking wrinkles that have made the Skins far from patsies.

On his teams, the ends put the shoulder to a man. Fortunately, he has two adaptables for the job—Steve Meilinger and Johnny Carson. If Meilinger doesn't look out, he could wind up a star because the one-time Kentucky jack-of-all-trades is finding the pro groove after two seasons of drifting. Meilinger and Carson also catch passes. Sentiment and talent are associated with a new end in the flock, Pitt's Joe Walton. He's a recent All-American, and his father, the late Tiger Walton, once played for the Skins.

A majority of the time, in contrast to pro protocol, the Skins stay on the ground. This

United Press



Fullback Leo Elter skips through a hole in the Browns in Redskin style—the emphasis on a quick charge, as Red Stephen (67) blocks

Rookie: Don Bosseler
Named the standout of the 1957 Senior Bowl, testing grounds for pro rookies, Bosseler of Miami brings Redskins the blasting fullback power they've lacked. He's a Batavia, N.Y., boy who almost quit college because he was terribly homesick.

Pros' Pro: Chuck Drazenovich
The man Frank Gifford most dislikes to meet on a football field is the punishing middle linebacker of the Redskins. Last season, his seventh, was his best and he was rewarded with a berth on the Pro Bowl squad. Chuck is a still spry 30

is the solid core of their offense. Two guards, Dick Stanfel and Red Stephens, demolished the championship Giants one October afternoon in 1956 with a brutal demonstration of path-clearing. Tackle Don Boll, 272 pounds, is another class blocker, and so is center Johnny Allen. The one vacancy in the cast was caused by the Army call-up of tackle John Miller. A rookie, maybe J. T. Frankenberger of Kentucky, will replace him.

Leo Elter was the closest approach to a power runner the Redskins could dredge up. He's a converted halfback. Dale Atkeson was hurt most of the time. Halfbacks Tom Runnels, Dick James and Billy Wells are sawed-off guys, none taller than 5-9, who use a darting technique to evade tackles rather than brute strength.

Even the guy who figures to share their quarterbacking, Eddie LeBaron, comes midget-sized. At 5-7 and 165, he's the smallest in the pay-for-play circuit. He didn't have a good year in 1956, which is one reason the Skins pooped out. His knee popped before the season began, and the torn cartilage kept him at half-mast all fall. LeBaron's elusiveness is his greatest ally behind the line and, unless he can maneuver 100 percent, he's lost. His ailment had one consolation. The Redskins discovered that Al Dorow, the erstwhile Michigan Stater, was an effective field general in his first real shot at directing the team in three full seasons.

This year it'll be Dorow and LeBaron alternating, with the hope they both stay healthy. Dorow, too, got his injury lumps in '56. The other backfield shorties will get support with arrival of rookie giants Ed Sutton (North Carolina) at halfback and Don Bosseler (Miami) at fullback. These are impressive-sized 207-pounders who come fully recommended as ball luggers. Bosseler was the standout of the pro-tinged Senior Bowl. Add to them a 200-pound halfback novice, Jim Podoley, a decathlon and sprint champ while attending Central Michigan.

Unmentioned so far is Sam Baker, the zany character who is nominally a fullback—built like one, too, at 6-2 and 215. Sam discovered last year he could propel a ball with his foot. He booted 17 field goals, the league high, and compiled the third-best punting average. Occasionally, he misses his old calling, tucks the ball under his arm and forgets about kicking. If he gets caught, well—there's the Redskin defense to bail him out.

Its key men are Gene Brito, an end who is rated the very best harassing a passer, and Chuck Drazenovich, the middle linebacker. Coach Jim Lee Howell said, after coaching

the linebacker in the Pro Bowl, that Drazenovich was the equal of any defensive player in football. The tackles, J. D. Kimmel and Volney Peters, are experienced and beefy (both in the vicinity of 250). Chet Ostrowski is a competent defensive end.

In the linebacking department, Torgy Torgeson, the veteran who gained a football reprieve when secured from the Detroit Lions three seasons back, is uniformly respected for smartness and tackling ability but criticized, at the same time, for his lack of speed that balls up the Redskin pass defense, especially against short throwing. The duties at the other linebacking post were split last year between Ralph Felton and Bill Fulcher. Felton did fine until injured in mid-season. Fulcher has the zeal but lacks the size for turning back those big fullbacks.

The Redskin defensive secondary hews to the pattern of the rest of the club. Art DeCarlo was shunted to the Skins from the Steelers. Norb Hecker is another castoff. Both are top pass defenders. DeCarlo's speed at coming up to meet a ball carrier catches the eye. Roy Barni and Joe Scudero, a pair of Kuharich proteges from University of San Francisco days, round out the foursome. They, too, were undesirables to other teams. Barni makes up in determination what he lacks in native ability. He's a potential weak spot. Tiny, 170-pound Scudero is frequently called the guttiest man in the league. He'll camp under a punt with three 250-pounders bearing down on him. Gary Lowe is the swing man who relieves the others when they need a rest. Free agent Jim Hagerty is a rookie possibility. The Redskins go in heavily for such men. A back who didn't pan out for another club, like Tommy Runnels (dropped by the Los Angeles Rams), fits into the Washington scheme permanently.

Sam Baker saved his pro career by learning to boot field goals

Dick James . . . high jumper

cleveland browns

Paul Brown

After flunking their first test without peerless Graham at quarterback, the Browns still look for the passing they must have to put them back into championship contention again

PREDICTION—FIRST

OFFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Brewster, Darrell	210	6-4	27	6	Purdue	Brewster insures all class you want on one wing, but wide open race for Lavelli vacancy, no real favorite. RATING—Good
	Sansom, Jerry	195	6-2	23	1	Auburn	
	Goodsell, Doug	210	6-3	24	1	Ohio St.	
	Clarke, Frank	210	6-0	23	1	Colorado	
T	Groza, Lou	240	6-3	33	12	Ohio St.	McCormack most versatile lineman in football and The Toe still carries weight as club elder. Jordan promising. RATING—Very good
	Jordan, Henry	225	6-3	22	1	Virginia	
	McCormack, Mike	250	6-4	27	4	Kansas	
	Underdonk, Bill	230	6-3	23	1	W. Va.	
G	Bradley, Harold	230	6-2	28	4	Iowa	The Brown messenger boys, Bradley and Forester intact, but must develop another Gibron at other spot. RATING—Fair
	Forester, Herschel	230	6-0	26	4	SMU	
	Smith, Jim Ray	220	6-3	25	2	Baylor	
	Robinson, Fred	235	6-1	27	1	Washington	
C	Gatski, Frank	240	6-3	35	12	Marshall	If Gatski reports for his gear, no problem here. RATING—Good
	Hunter, Art	235	6-4	24	3	Notre Dame	
Q	Garrett, Bobby	190	6-1	24	2	Stanford	Key to Browns. Doubt even maestro knows who it'll be. Add Freeman, Plum to list. RATING—Poor
	O'Connell, Tom	190	5-11	26	3	Illinois	
	Borton, John	195	6-0	24	1	Ohio St.	
H	Carpenter, Preston	190	6-2	23	2	Arkansas	Desirable situation. Too many good men squeezing for jobs. Renfro flank untouchable. Likes of Reynolds, Hanulak must play, Carpenter, too. RATING—Excellent
	Hanulak, Chet	185	5-10	24	2	Maryland	
	Morrison, Fred	215	6-1	31	8	Ohio St.	
	Renfro, Ray	192	6-1	26	6	N. Texas St.	
	Reynolds, Billy	195	6-0	25	3	Pitt	
F	Bassett, Maurice	230	6-1	26	4	Langston	Also beaucoup talent, with Mighty Mo in for strong tussle by none-such rookie Brown. Others no slouches, too. RATING—Very good
	Bayuk, John	215	6-1	23	1	Colorado	
	Brown, Jim	220	6-2	21	1	Syracuse	
	Modzelewski, Ed	215	6-1	27	3	Maryland	

SYSTEM—Wing T. PLAYER LOSSES—End Dante Lavelli, qb George Ratterman, qb Babe Parilli, maybe Gatski. STRENGTH—Tops at tackle, superb running backs, Brewster at end. WEAKNESS—Quarterback!!! (another Graham needed), one guard. RATING—Good.

DEFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Quinlan, Bill	235	6-3	23	1	Mich. St.	Ford a half step slower but still serviceable. Trading Massey leaves opening for rookie. Might be Quinlan. RATING—Fair
	Ford, Len	260	6-5	31	10	Michigan	
	Wiggin, Paul	230	6-2	22	1	Stanford	
	Mischak, Bob	215	6-1	24	1	Army	
T	Colo, Don	250	6-3	32	8	Brown	Lots of size and depth. Any of these giants can do top job. Gain, at peak, will challenge for all-pro. RATING—Very good
	Gain, Bob	250	6-3	28	4	Kentucky	
	Goss, Don	260	6-5	24	2	SMU	
	Kissell, John	248	6-3	34	8	Bos. Col.	
M	Michaels, Walt	230	6-0	28	6	Wash. & Lee	Michaels one of game's fine tacklers. RATING—Excellent
	Amstutz, Joe	260	6-5	23	1	Indiana	
LB	Fiss, Galen	215	6-0	26	2	Kansas	Addition of all-pro Zatkoff makes this fortress spot because Noll, Fiss both expert linebackers, too. RATING—Very good
	Noll, Chuck	210	6-1	25	5	Dayton	
	Rotunno, Mike	215	6-1	21	1	Michigan	
	Zatkoff, Roger	215	6-2	26	5	Michigan	
H	Paul, Don	190	6-0	31	5	Wash. St.	If age doesn't catch up with them, no smarter pair in game than Paul and Lahr. RATING—Very good
	Lahr, Warren	190	5-11	34	9	West. Res.	
	Matsock, John	185	5-11	23	1	Mich. St.	
S	Konz, Ken	180	5-10	29	5	LSU	Konz has been unsung standout for five years. Wren learned fast as rookie. Newcomers have talent, too. RATING—Very good
	Wren, Junior	185	6-0	26	2	Missouri	
	Plum, Milt	195	6-1	22	1	Penn State	
	Freeman, Bobby	195	6-1	24	1	Auburn	

PLAYER LOSSES—Carlton Massey, lb Sam Palumbo. WEAKNESS—Possibly at end, reserves for secondary. STRENGTH—Linebacking combo of Michaels, Zatkoff devastating, tackles impregnable. RATING—Excellent.

FOR a couple of years, Cleveland Browns' fans have been tossing around a tickler: Who's been more important to the success of the perennial Eastern division champs? Automatic Otto Graham or Svengali Paul Brown?

The maestro didn't come out looking so hot a year ago when, with Otto experting from the 35th row or thereabouts, the Browns booted away four of their first five games and ended the campaign with a dismal 5-7 record, poorest in their 11-year history and the first time they dipped below .500.

A full calendar has been ripped away, and Brown is still in a tizzy over his quarterback situation. "It's our number one problem," he concedes. "We'll have to get good passing if we're going to be a championship contender."

Down the pike went the presumed heir apparents, George Ratterman (retired) and Vito (Babe) Parilli (swapped to Green Bay in the spring). The Babe, with all the physical equipment to do the job, lost his poise under the nagging of Brown. The logical successor is the guy they got for him, Bobby Garrett, an ex-Stanford novice who put in a year of apprenticeship with the Packers, who got him from the Browns, ironically enough, in the trade that sent Parilli to Cleveland.

Garrett, away in the Army a couple of seasons, stutters, but there's nothing wrong with his arm. Besides, a Brown quarterback doesn't have to call signals. The boss has his mes-

United Press

The most sensational rookie in Cleveland history, Preston Carpenter, spurts into the open for a 15-yard gain against Philadelphia

Rookie: Jim Brown
The Syracuse strong boy is all you'd want in an offensive back—220 pounds, a track man, an All-American in both football and lacrosse, with the agility to star in basketball. He dazzled the state of Texas in the Cotton Bowl

Pros' Pro: Warren Lahr
Only reason Lahr didn't become a coal miner was he weighed 135 as a schoolboy. So they kept him at the books; he went on to Western Reserve, where Paul Brown caught him in action. He's now in his ninth season with the Browns

senger guards, Hal Bradley and Herschel Forester, right at his elbow to convey directions on alternate plays.

If Garrett can't make it, there's Tom O'Connell, picked up as a free agent a year ago when he flunked the Bears, and a one-game wonder against the champion Giants. You can get by with him. Three rookies also get in the act: Milt Plum of Penn State, John Borton of Ohio State (who bears watching because he once led the nation in passing) and Bobby Freeman, an Auburn long-throwing hotshot just out of service. Freeman is all football player and conceivably could make it as a defensive back, too.

Brown discovered he needs more than just a quarterback. "A losing season," he shrugs, "has one compensation—you find out more about your men than when you're winning."

For instance, he may have awakened to the fact that the old men along his offensive and defensive lines are beginning to creak with age. Len Ford at end is 31 and, after 10 years, no longer a terror to passers. Don Colo and John Kissell, his defensive tacklers, are well over 30. The average age of the backfield secondary, which must keep step with the youngblood ends around the league, is 30.

On the attacking echelon, Lou (The Toe) Groza at tackle no longer makes all-pro teams and is crowding 34. He's the last of the original Browns to return for sure. If Frank Gatski decides to crouch for the center snapbacks, he'll add 35 years to the team total.

Ominously, Brown says, "We're going to infuse as much young blood as we possibly can."

There's room at the defensive wings for a couple of the rookie clan. Bill Quinlan, who quit Michigan State prematurely and finished his education in Canadian football, has mushroomed into a lusty 250-pounder ripe for a job. Fellows like Warren Lahr, 34, and Don Paul, 31, in the secondary could stand an occasional breather. There'll definitely be new blood at one of the offensive-end spots, vacated by the great Dante Lavelli, whose competitive fire will be missed. From somewhere must come a guard to take over for Abe Gibron, who was given the heave-ho in mid-season after crossing the maestro.

They say, of course, the right blend of seasoning and youthful vigor makes for winning football teams. This the Browns could have, with the temperance of experience provided by such really class men as offensive tackle Mike McCormack, defensive tackle Bob Gain (voted most valuable Brown last year by the Cleveland Touchdown Club) and linebacker

Walt Michaels. The Browns also secured all-pro linebacker Roger Zatkoff from the Packers, but there's no assurance at the moment that he'll play or that the Browns will keep him.

It's the backfield, however, which prompts a hunch we've been nursing that the Browns will rebound all the way, without any Graham. What a trimming job they'll have at roster-cutting time. Billy Reynolds, the bow-legged hillbilly, and Chet-the-Jet Hanulak—who've both been away in the service—are musts because they've thoroughly established their pro ability in previous sessions with the Browns. Sophomore Preston Carpenter, injected in mid-season of 1956 to soup up the Browns' running game, became the most outstanding rookie in the club's history, leading the team in rushing, and finishing sixth in the league despite a late start.

Sprinting Ray Renfro, who once was timed in 9.5 for the 100, is the most dangerous wingback in the game after five seasons of mastering all the tricks of getting out in the open. He's a brilliant pass receiver who'll go all the way if you give him daylight.

So where does this array leave Curly Morrison, who's good for a steady four yards a crack, and who's a fine punter? He's a fullback, too, but there the competition is even more bruising. Ed (Big Mo) Modzelewski's broken leg, which kept him out of the last four games of '56, has healed to give him first claim to the job—if he can hold off the threat of Jim Brown, the burly Syracuse neophyte, who was college football's strongest ball carrier, a 220-pounder with undeniable speed and finesse. Not out of the picture by any means are Maurice Bassett, a 230-pound veteran, and John (The Beast) Bayuk, a rugged rookie from Colorado.

Ray Renfro brings the dazzling speed of a sprinter to the flanks

Pete Brewster . . . clutch receiver

Chuck Noll . . . handy man

Lou Groza . . . the venerable Toe

pittsburgh steelers

Walt Kiesling

Steelers challenge pro maxim that "You can't win with a rookie quarterback." They hope Purdue's Len Dawson will lead an also-ran team to a sparkling finish

PREDICTION—FIFTH

OFFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Mathews, Ray	195	6-0	29	7	Clemson	This would be standout position if Perry recovered from crushed pelvis. Mathews made good shift from backfield. RATING—Good
	Richards, Perry	205	6-3	23	1	Detroit	
	O'Brien, Jack	215	6-1	26	3	Florida	
	Perry, Lowell	195	6-1	25	2	Michigan	
T	Gaona, Bob	245	6-2	27	5	Wake Forest	Varrichione is outstanding, Gaona strong plugger and Owens has tremendous potential. Well fixed spot. RATING—Very good
	Varrichione, Frank	240	6-3	26	3	Notre Dame	
	Owens, Don	260	6-6	25	1	Miss. So.	
	Bigbie, Len	220	6-2	23	1	E. Texas St.	
G	Krupa, Joe	240	6-2	24	2	Purdue	Question mark. Rookie Michael may move in. McFadden light, Krupa progressing. RATING—Poor
	McFadden, Marv	225	6-0	26	3	Mich. St.	
	Hutchings, Charles	225	6-3	22	1	Miami (Fla.)	
C	Taylor, Jim	230	6-2	24	2	Baylor	Taylor's learned ropes. Tarasovic a possibility. RATING—Fair
	Cenci, John	215	6-0	23	2	Pitt	
Q	Dawson, Len	185	6-0	22	1	Purdue	Most sensitive Steeler spot. Hopes for season rest on touted, raw Dawson. RATING—Fair
	Marchibroda, Ted	180	5-10	26	4	St. Bona.	
	Scarbath, Jack	200	6-2	27	3	Maryland	
H	Chandnois, Lynn	205	6-1	30	8	Mich. St.	McClairen coming along as slot back. May lure Nickel into action. Vet Chandnois still dangerous, could use help. RATING—Fair
	McClairen, Jack	205	6-3	26	3	Beth.-Cook.	
	Baldacci, Lou	200	6-2	22	2	Michigan	
	Watson, Sid	185	5-11	24	3	Northeast.	
F	Rogel, Fran	205	5-11	30	8	Penn St.	Rogel plugs on and on, can't go on wide stuff. RATING—Fair
	Shepard, Charley	215	6-2	24	2	N. Texas St.	

SYSTEM—Slot T. PLAYER LOSSES—Slot back Elbie Nickel. STRENGTH—Tackles, ends, Dawson's passing arm. WEAKNESS—Guards, fullback speed, quarterback inexperience. RATING—Fair.

DEFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	O'Neil, Bob	225	6-1	26	2	Notre Dame	O'Neil possibly best lineman on squad; McPeak slowing up but others insure enough protection. RATING—Good
	McPeak, Bill	215	6-2	32	9	Pitt	
	Michael, Bill	230	6-2	22	1	Ohio St.	
	O'Malley, Joe	215	6-2	25	3	Georgia	
T	Stautner, Ernie	235	6-2	33	8	Bos. Col.	Stautner aging, too, but you'd never notice, and McClung has become consistently strong vs. rushing. RATING—Very good
	McClung, Willie	245	6-1	28	3	Florida A&M	
	Canil, Herm	220	6-1	22	1	Pitt	
	Pollock, Bob	225	6-2	22	1	Pitt	
M	Dodrill, Dale	215	6-2	32	7	Colo. A&M	Dodrill another vet on downgrade, may need relief. RATING—Fair
	Michalik, Art	230	6-2	27	5	St. Ambrose	
LB	Reger, John	220	6-0	26	3	Pitt	Matuszak is a good one, and Reger a hungry player, so erase any worries here. RATING—Very good
	Matuszak, Marv	230	6-2	26	4	Tulsa	
	Tarasovic, George	235	6-4	26	5	LSU	
H	Glick, Gary	195	6-0	26	2	Colo. A&M	Steelers will go with Alban, Glick; just average ability, but year of indoctrination for Gary will cut mistakes. RATING—Good
	Alban, Dick	195	6-0	28	6	Northwest.	
	Bruney, Fred	180	5-11	25	3	Ohio St.	
	Jelic, Ralph	195	6-0	23	1	Pitt	
S	Ford, Henry	185	5-10	23	2	Pitt	Butler the standout of secondary, but Ford no ball of fire, so may sneak speedboy Davis into defense role at times. RATING—Fair
	Butler, Jack	200	6-0	30	7	St. Bona.	
	Davis, Art	195	6-1	23	2	Miss. St.	
	Johnson, Curley	195	5-11	22	1	Houston	

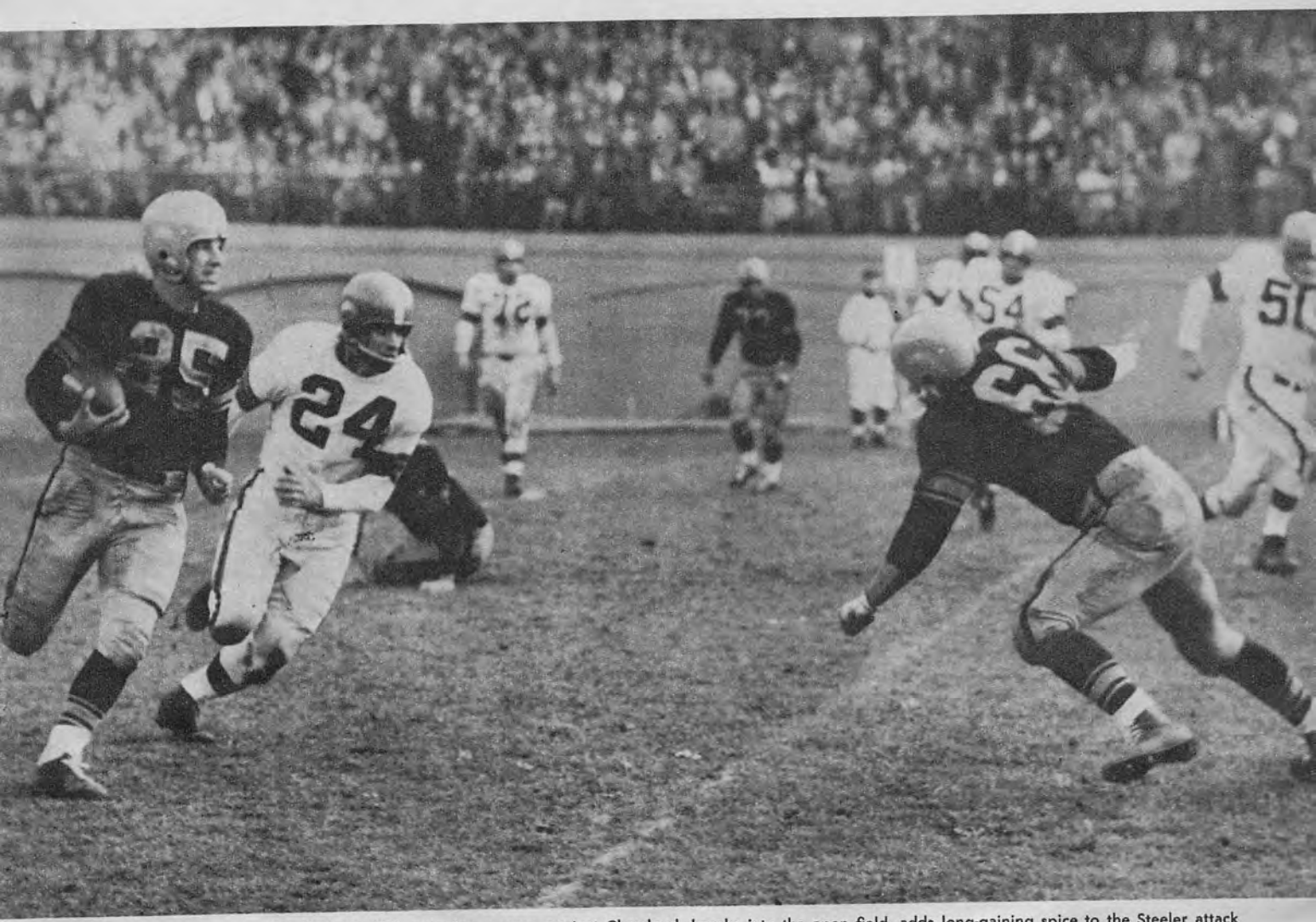
PLAYER LOSSES—O'Malley might be Army-bound. STRENGTH—Tackles, especially their range; ends; ground defense. WEAKNESS—Defense against long pass, vulnerable up middle. RATING—Good.

IT'S been 10 years since you could take the Pittsburgh Steelers seriously as a contender. In recent seasons they would break fast from the wire, look like a big winner the first month, then go into a tailspin. "Ran out of gas," said Steeler apologists, "because they worked too hard and long in training camp."

So last summer they were brought along more slowly—and proceeded to lose three of their first four league tests and get mired in a rut from which they never did emerge.

The Steelers have always had the bruising personnel characteristic of coal-mine Pennsylvania football. Since Bill Dudley was in his heyday, they've never had the playing spark to fuse it into a challenger. This is primarily because, when they abandoned the old Jock Sutherland concept of the single wing for the modern-day T, they never found the big quarterback. Jim Finks tried it for a number of years and was an in-and-outer. Ted Marchibroda was figured the heir apparent, and Little Butch gave Pittsburghers the excitement of seeing an undersized guy squirm away from the clutching giants, but he showed in '56 he was only a good second-stringer.

That leaves the Steelers with but one outlet—to break in a new face, Len Dawson, who comes from Purdue with a reputation as the greatest passer in Big Ten history. It's a lot to ask of a rookie—to forge the Steeler offense into a contending machine. Very few rookies



Ray Mathews (25), enjoying a romp against Cleveland, breaks into the open field, adds long-gaining spice to the Steeler attack

Rookie: Len Dawson
Time embellishes feats, but Len Dawson is already known as the greatest passer in Big Ten history although he's just out of Purdue. He's the reason Steelers feel they can gamble their 1957 prospects on a rookie. His arm gets him the job

Pros' Pro: Jack Butler
A free agent from little St. Bonaventure, Butler came to the Steelers because the Bonnies' athletic director was owner Art Rooney's brother. Butler has since proved himself on the field as a fine defensive back. He studied to be a priest

have broken in as first-string quarterbacks—the last in memory is the Colts' George Shaw—and no NFL titles have been won in their embryonic stages.

Dawson, it's agreed, is something special in the way of quarterbacks because his pitching arm is big league already. However, the good field general requires a pair of seasons to assimilate a new attack and a new concept of football. The Steelers, like others, have swung to the slot-T, which is getting belated acceptance in the college game. The premium is on passing, where Len is no bashful baby. But complexity of NFL defenses demands a signal caller who is familiar with personnel on the other side of the ball. He must probe the opposition's weak points. He must be able to "automatic" (change the signals) on the line of scrimmage to meet over-shifting. He must be able to spiel off fake "automatics" to throw the opposition off balance. These are intricacies lost in the commotion of the stands but essential for competitive, winning football.

Give Dawson a year, look for Marchibroda to step in occasionally and don't expect the Steelers to climb too high. The veterans surrounding the quarterback, although good, aren't stunning. Fran Rogel is a fullback plugger who hasn't the speed to go wide and never will make all-pro. Lynn Chandnois, the vet halfback stepper, is injury prone and may yield to Art Davis, another speedboy with all the equipment who turned up hurt a year ago. He underwent knee surgery and should be ready. The slot back is Jack McClairen, who needed lots of coaching his first two years and is on the verge of producing results. The Steelers would like to coax Elbie Nickel out of retirement to play the slot another season.

Strongholds on the forward wall are at the tackle spots, fortified by Frank Varrichione and Bob Gaona. Frank is a Notre Dame boy who keeps improving and is the Steelers' best. Jim Taylor, a pleasant rookie surprise, could do at center and will be joined by George Tarasovic, a big, tough kid who hasn't found his position yet. Jack O'Brien and Ray Mathews have known capabilities as wingmen. O'Brien is a good blocker. Mathews, the swiftie who used to play halfback, could bloom as a Dawson pass receiver. The Steelers thought they had a great end in Lowell Perry last fall. They did, until he was crushed in an open-field tackle at mid-season and spent the next six months in a hospital bed with a shattered pelvis. Perry will need another year to recuperate and in the meantime has been put on the Steeler staff as a coach and scout.

Offensive guard shares trouble with the quarterback. Again it's the rookies who will

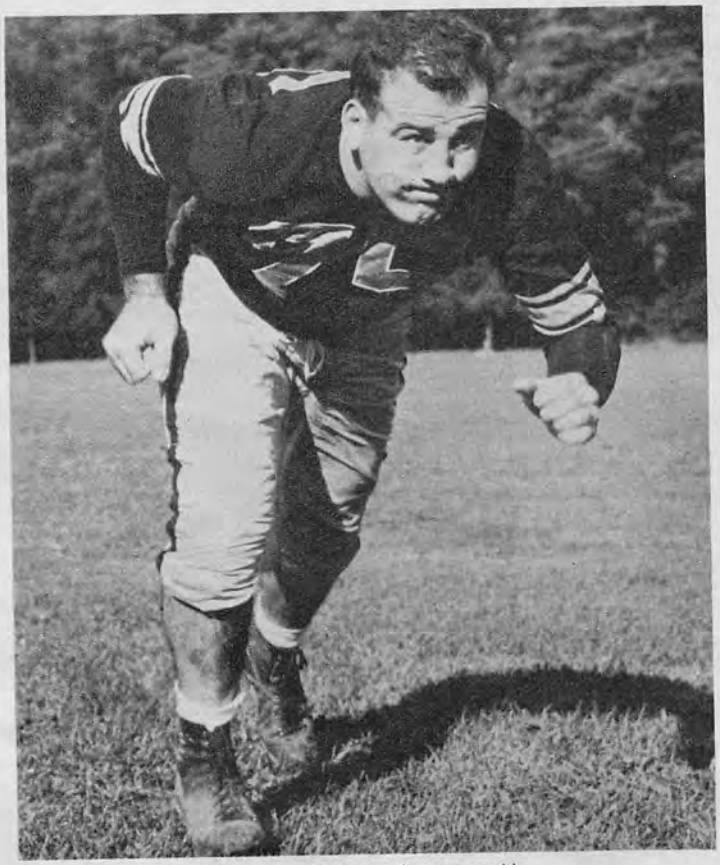
carry the load. Veteran Marv McFadden has the desire, but his 215 pounds are not considered enough. The Steelers drafted Bill Michael of Ohio State with the certainty he could play defensive end, but the plan now is first to give him a shot at offensive guard. A 260-pound hulk from Mississippi Southern, Don Owens, is another candidate, and so is Charles Hutchings, rookie tackle.

The defense could use some of that youth. The frontal positions are burdened down with age. Bill McPeak, the sturdy end, doesn't react as he did nine seasons ago. Ernie Stautner is a wondrous roving tackle, perennially one of the NFL's best, but you wonder how much he has left at 33. Dale Dodrill's middle-guard play has been characterized by fine pursuit movement, but at 31 a half-step lag is inevitable. Pridefully, the Steelers nominate Bob O'Neil, a pro sophomore from Notre Dame, as their unsung lineman. He's tabbed for end, but could fill in at offensive guard. Willie McClung is a strong, fast tackle.

Marv Matuszak, who came out of service during the 1956 season with his skills unimpaired, is once again expected to give Pittsburgh top-grade linebacking. He is teamed with John Reger, a hungry family man who borrowed money so the wife and kids could eat while he tried out for the Steelers a couple of seasons back.

The caliber drops off a shade further back. Dick Alban and Gary Glick on the wings afford average protection. Alban has the savvy. Glick is no speed demon. Henry Ford is just ordinary. A jump in class is provided by Jack Butler, a deep man of all-pro rating. He's a standout in all phases of defense.

The strengths and weaknesses of the Steelers just about balance out except for the big question mark of Purdue-to-Pittsburgh Dawson. The Steelers could soar with him.

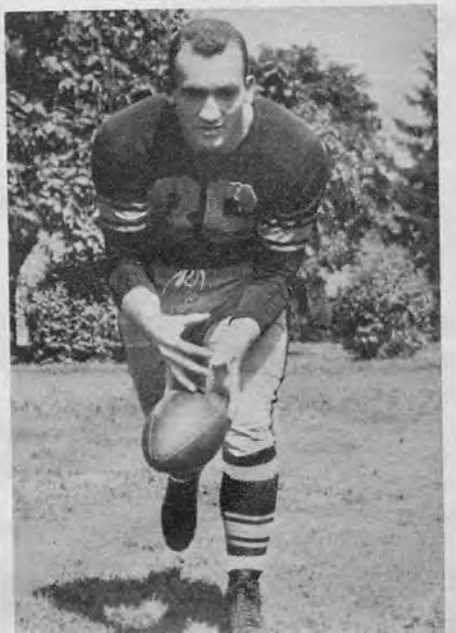


Frank Varrichione is the big wheel at offensive tackle

Fran Rogel . . . the plugger

Ernie Stautner . . . old pro

Bob O'Neil . . . up and coming



philadelphia eagles

Hugh Devore

To win, a team must have both ground and air attack. The sad Philadelphia Story is that by the time the cellar-dwelling Eagles had built up their ground offense their air attack fell apart

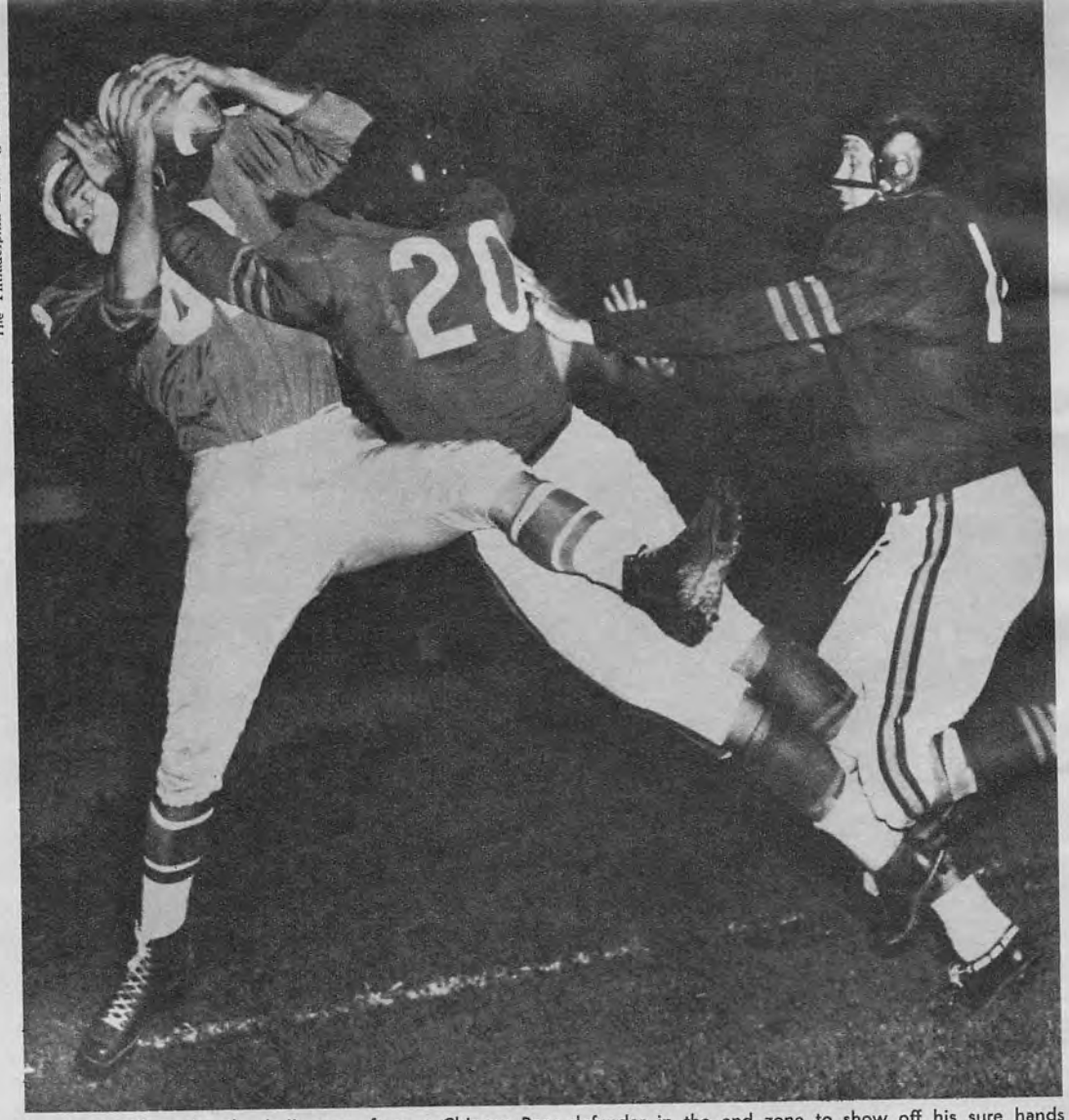
PREDICTION—SIXTH

OFFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Walston, Bobby	190	6-0	28	7	Georgia	Not like Pihos days. Walston, Stribling not getting better—or younger, and Burnine has a way to go. RATING—Fair
	Burnine, Harold	185	6-2	25	2	Missouri	
	Stribling, Bill	205	6-1	30	6	Mississippi	
	Moriarty, Mort	230	6-3	25	1	Texas	
T	Murley, Dick	247	6-0	24	2	Purdue	Hope to induce Snyder comeback. Need him, too, because Lansford only one who could be called standout. RATING—Fair
	Snyder, Ken	230	6-5	27	5	Ga. Tech	
	Shoaf, Gil	250	6-4	22	1	Wabash	
	Lansford, Buck	235	6-2	23	2	Texas	
G	Huxhold, Ken	230	6-2	28	4	Wisconsin	Gibron showed enough when picked up to give some hope. But he's no chick and others just routine players. RATING—Fair
	D'Agostino, Frank	244	6-1	23	2	Auburn	
	Gibron, Abe	255	5-11	32	8	Purdue	
	Mavraides, Menil	225	6-2	25	2	Notre Dame	
C	Kelley, Bob	238	6-2	27	3	W. Texas St.	Kelley has become journeyman, dependable pivot. Huge Dimmick tackle possibility. RATING—Good
	Dimmick, Tom	250	6-6	26	2	Houston	
	Lusk, Bob	220	6-0	25	2	Wm. & Mary	
Q	Burk, Adrian	194	6-2	29	8	Baylor	Questionable. Retired Burk has been no ball of fire, Harris has lots to learn. RATING—Fair
	Harris, Jimmy	185	6-1	21	1	Oklahoma	
	Jurgensen, Sonny	195	5-11	22	1	Duke	
H	Keller, Ken	185	5-11	23	2	No. Carolina	Real rat race for jobs, but after years without strong ground game, finally have host of backs who can really go. Peaks, McDonald classy first year men. RATING—Very good
	Retzlaff, Pete	208	6-1	27	2	S. Dak. St.	
	McDonald, Tommy	176	5-10	23	1	Oklahoma	
	Peaks, Clarence	206	6-0	22	1	Mich. St.	
	Berzinski, Willie	195	6-2	23	2	Wis. St.	
	Wegert, Ted	210	5-11	24	3	None	
F	Bielski, Dick	225	6-1	25	3	Maryland	Wide open for jobs, too, with Bielski faulted as slow; Barnes, maybe Peaks to challenge; Rogers dark horse. RATING—Good
	Barnes, Bill	187	5-11	21	1	Wake Forest	
	Worden, Neil	195	5-11	26	2	Notre Dame	
	Rogers, Dave	220	6-1	22	1	Indiana	

SYSTEM—Wing T. PLAYER LOSSES—Qb Bobby Thomason, fb Don Schaefer. STRENGTH—Addition of half dozen classy backs, Gibron at guard, Snyder if available. WEAKNESS—Unproven qb; tackle, guard vacancies. RATING—Poor.

DEFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Willey, Norm	225	6-3	30	8	Marshall	Weatherall, Youngelman fit new concept of four tackles up front, possibly vulnerable against speed. RATING—Fair
	Weatherall, Jim	235	6-4	28	3	Oklahoma	
	Youngelman, Sid	255	6-3	25	3	Alabama	
	Saidock, Tom	240	6-4	26	1	Mich. St.	
T	Richardson, Jess	275	6-2	27	5	Alabama	No lack of size or experience, but these giants have never been overly impressive; Richardson the best. RATING—Fair
	Campbell, Marion	249	6-3	26	4	Georgia	
	Cashman, Jerry	230	6-2	22	1	Syracuse	
	King, Don	274	6-3	28	3	Kentucky	
M	Bednarik, Chuck	230	6-3	32	9	Penn	Bednarik, hustling again, is top performer. RATING—Very good
	Strawn, Bill	248	6-2½	21	1	West. Ky.	
LB	Hudson, Bob	220	6-4	28	6	Clemson	Good one here in Scott, moved behind line from end, may be joined by Willey. Rookies may surprise. RATING—Good
	Scott, Tom	215	6-2	27	5	Virginia	
	Radakovich, Dan	205	6-2	21	1	Penn St.	
	Lovely, Lou	200	6-0	22	1	Boston U.	
H	Bell, Ed	205	6-1	26	3	Penn	Mediocre. Bell can be tricked on passes, Ryan still breaking in, Dowda old: RATING—Poor
	Ryan, Rocky	195	6-1	25	2	Illinois	
	Dowda, Harry	205	6-2	32	9	Wake Forest	
S	Norton, Jerry	200	5-11	26	4	SMU	Norton is a class performer and Brookshier showed potential strength. RATING—Good
	Brookshier, Tom	194	6-1	25	3	Colorado	
	Bawel, Bibbles	190	6-1	26	4	Evansville	

PLAYER LOSSES—Linebacker Wayne Robinson. STRENGTH—Middle linebacker, corner man Scott. WEAKNESS—Halfbacks, line speed, reserves. RATING—Good.



The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin

Bobby Walston, the Georgia sheriff, grabs the ball away from a Chicago Bear defender in the end zone to show off his sure hands

CYNICS who write off professional football as basketball with shoulder pads should consult the Philadelphia Eagles. For several seasons they had men to throw the ball around —reliable passers Bobby Thomason and Adrian Burk pitching to a corps of capable ends. And where did it get them? Increasingly lower finishes until 1956 found them dumped into the basement.

Why? Because the Eagles could never complement their passing arm with effective groundwork. They lacked the ball carriers. This in mind, they charged into the pro draft and plucked off an exciting list of running prospects to brighten up any old flying-wedge enthusiast. For a change they promise to move the ball overland

Ironically, it occurs at a time their forward passing is in eclipse. Their ends wore out, and they didn't count on the retirement of Thomason, leaving them without their best offensive threat. This is what makes teams finish last, inability to mesh both phases of attack.

The quarterbacking load would have fallen entirely on Adrian Burk, a once potent thrower of seven years' experience who went into an unaccountable decline and finally retired before the season's start. The best bet to replace him is Sonny Jurgensen, a stocky Duke alumnus who's reputed to have the arm but didn't exercise it very much in the split-T offense he ran in college. The Eagles also drafted Jimmy Harris of Oklahoma as a quarterback stand-in but are inclined to think he'll wind up in the defensive secondary. If a trade doesn't bring another experienced quarterback into camp, that's it.

Coach Hugh Devore would rather dwell on

Rookie: Clarence Peaks
Until he broke his ankle last season, the Michigan Stater was a cinch All-American halfback with no apparent weakness. Fully healed, he's one answer to the Eagles' great need for running backs. Peaks, at 206, has the speed of a lightweight

Pros' Pro: Tom Scott
The Rams traded Scott to the Eagles in '53 before they ever got a good look at him. It was a mistake because the big guy from Virginia is one of football's finest defensive ends. He is also quick enough to become a corner linebacker

his other backfield prospects. Reporting for jobs are three of the best running backs to gallop college gridirons last fall: Tommy McDonald of Oklahoma, Clarence Peaks of Michigan State and Bill Barnes of Wake Forest. They have the ability to move into the first string as a unit, Barnes at fullback, the others at the halves. Besides being able to squeeze through holes with a rapid take-off, they're adept pass receivers. McDonald and Peaks have been known to throw running passes, a gift that can come in very handy.

A coach likes to see job competition. The newcomers will get plenty because still around are Ken Keller, a fine 1956 acquisition, Pete Retzlaff and Willie Berzinski (picked up from other clubs a year ago), injury-laden Skippy Giancanelli and Ted Wegert, the free-agent terror who's been too bruised up to go at top speed. From the service comes Neil Worden, erstwhile Notre Damer who's not big enough for fullback but might do at half.

With Don Schaefer, another Irish product, Army bound, only Dick Bielski returns at the plunging spot. He's a bit slow for stardom and will get a fling as a linebacker. Dark horse in the picture is a kid who played one season at Indiana, Dave Rogers, and has been picking up experience in the Army. He weighs a solid 220.

"If," says Devore, "we can come up with a pair of starting offensive tackles, that old Eagle will be screaming."

For one, the Eagles hope to coax Lum Snyder back into the fold. He skipped 1956 for other business interests. If he plays, he's one of the best. The Eagles like what they saw in motion pictures of Tom Saidock, a rangy 240-pound rookie from Michigan State. Chances are Buck Lansford will be switched permanently from guard, and he's a good one. They can spare him at the running posts since Abe Gibron, the veteran all-pro picked up when the Browns released him, showed in a brief look he's still serviceable. Menil Mavraides, a '54 regular, is out of the Army. Ken Huxhold is an added starter. Center Bob Kelley showed enough last year to free Chuck

Bednarik exclusively for linebacking chores. Giant Tom Dimmick is a handy guy to have around for either center or tackle.

The Eagles will go at end with Bob Walston, Bill Stribling and Hank Burnine. Walston catches his share and place-kicks spare points. Burnine showed a rookie flair for breaking into the open, but neither is a powerhouse blocker for the anticipated running attack. They'll merely split wide and hope the defense scatters with them.

Defensively, the Eagles got a jolt when linebacker Wayne Robinson, a bulwark, politely informed his bosses there was more loot to be made coaching and playing in Canada. Bednarik is the man who got the publicity for his tackling exploits over the years, but enemy coaches have always been more wary of Robbie's ferocious roving behind the line. Bielski is a possibility to take up the slack.

The Eagles' system of four big tackles up on the line, throwing the ends back, is the other solution. Tom Scott and Norm Willey have sound reputations as flankers and function just as effectively as corner men, where they have room to maneuver. The load up front is shouldered by Jim Weatherall (235), Sid Youngelman (255), Jess Richardson (275) and Marion Campbell (249). Lots of beef and not much mobility.

The secondary, sadly depleted by injury a year ago, expects help from three sources: rookie Harris, if he's freed from the slot at quarterback; veteran Harry Dowda, who sat out 1956 waiting for a knee operation to heal, and Jerry Norton, incapacitated half a season with a fractured arm. If any degree of support can be mustered up from Rocky Ryan, Tom Brookshier, Bibbles Bawel and Ed Bell, there's a chance to weld a solid pass defense.

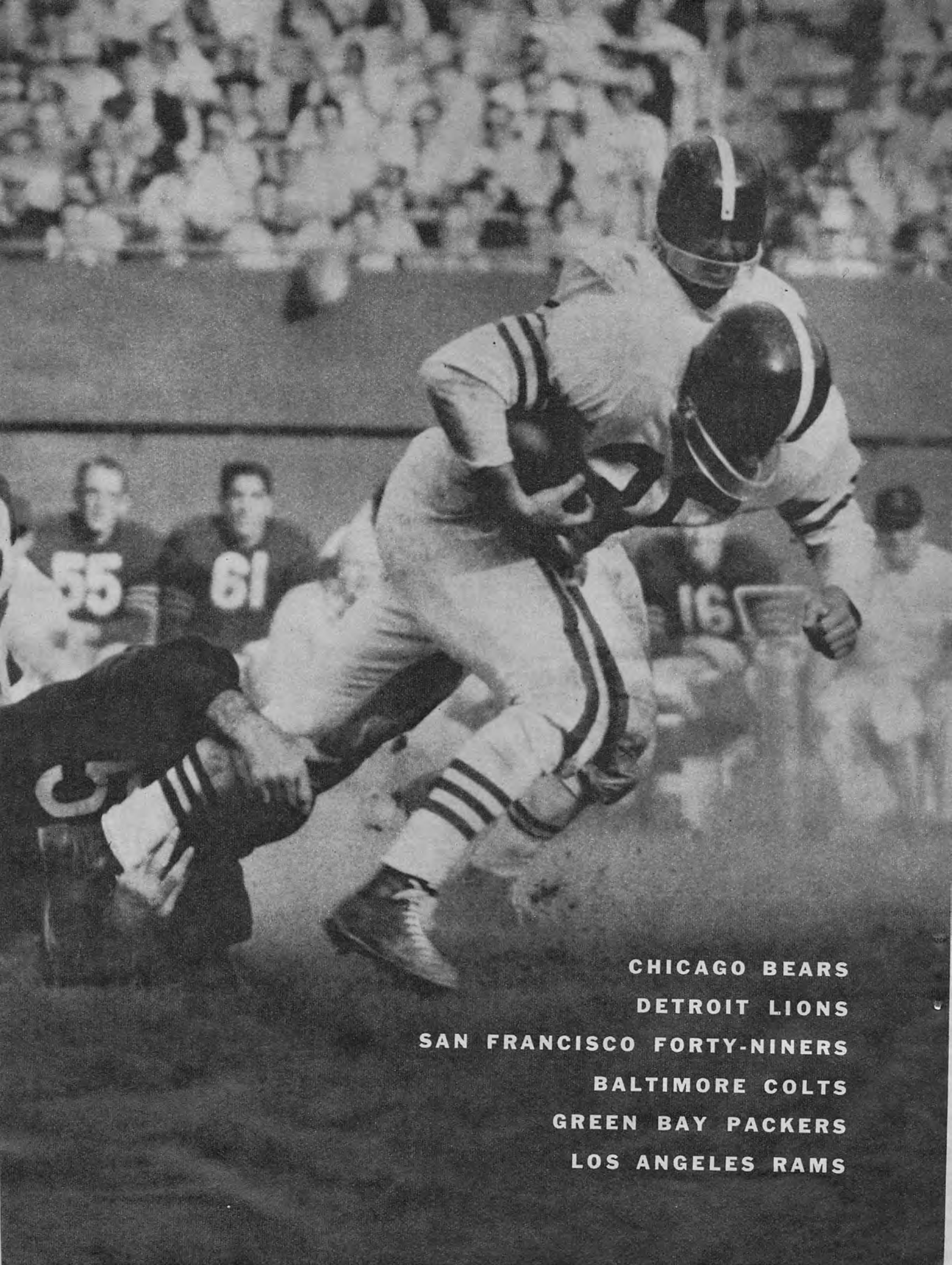
Jerry Norton's absence half the season hurt the Eagles' secondary

Photos by United Press

Ken Keller . . . surprise rookie

Chuck Bednarik . . . old man river

Adrian Burk . . . will be missed



CHICAGO BEARS

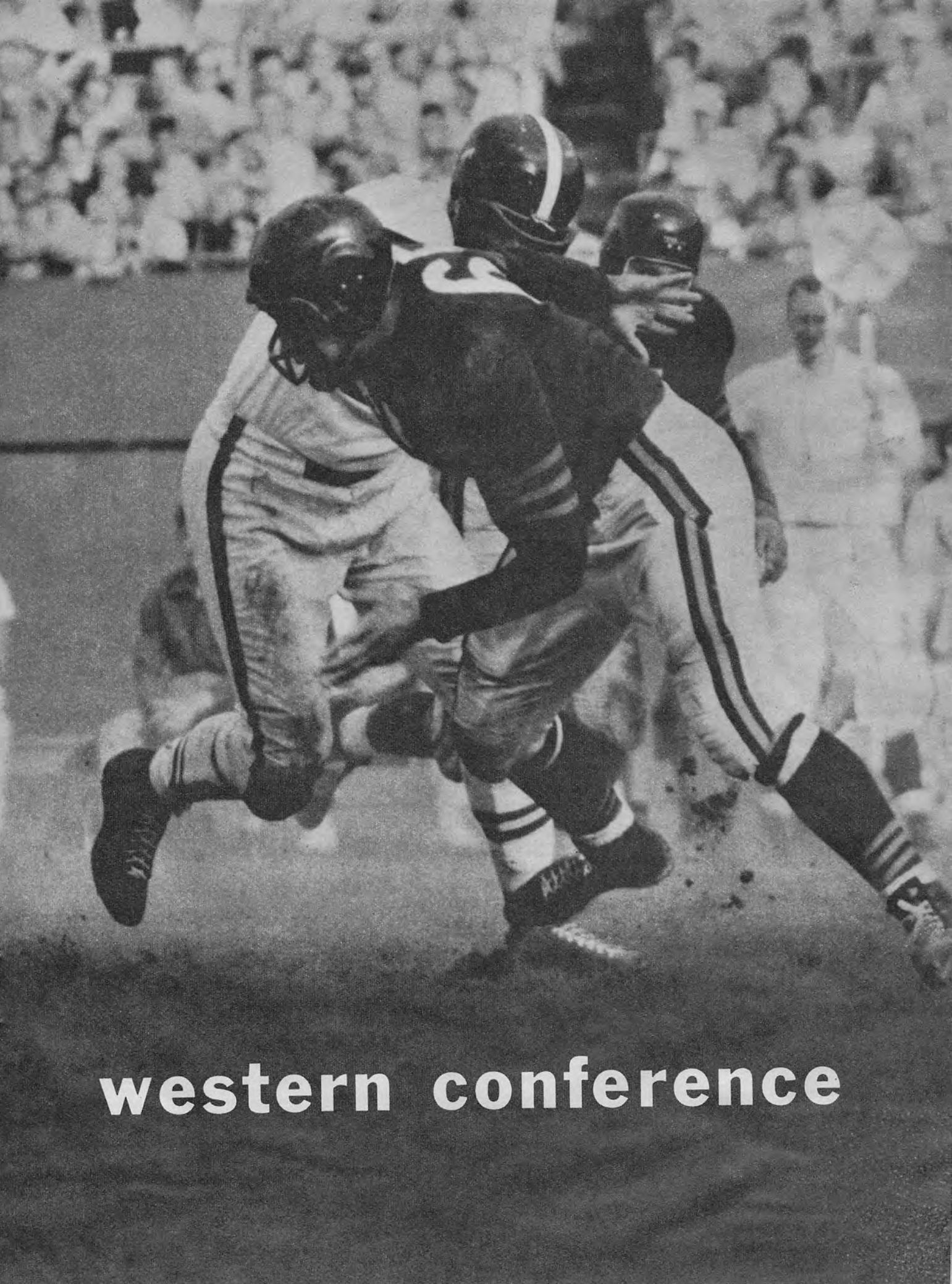
DETROIT LIONS

SAN FRANCISCO FORTY-NINERS

BALTIMORE COLTS

GREEN BAY PACKERS

LOS ANGELES RAMS



western conference

chicago bears

Paddy Driscoll

Lack of a take-charge guy is the only weakness apparent in the power-packed Chicago Bears. Zeke Bratkowski's return, to play quarterback, could be the remedy

PREDICTION—FIRST, NFL TITLE

OFFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Hill, Harlon	198	6-3	25	4	Florence Tchrs.	Hill, best since Hutson, is top threat in game; Dooley superb faker; McColl used in slot back. RATING—Excellent
	Dooley, Jim	198	6-3½	27	4	Miami (Fla.)	
	Schroeder, Gene	195	6-3½	28	5	Virginia	
	McColl, Bill	230	6-4	27	6	Stanford	
T	Gilbert, Kline	235	6-2	26	5	Mississippi	Wightkin top downfield blocker; Gilbert very fast for size. RATING—Very good
	Wightkin, Bill	235	6-2½	30	7	Notre Dame	
	Mellekas, John	255	6-3	24	2	Arizona	
G	Clark, Herman	255	6-3	26	5	Ore. St.	Bears rate Jones tops in NFL; Clark almost as good, pulls well. RATING—Excellent
	Jones, Stan	250	6-1	25	4	Maryland	
	Roggeman, Tom	235	6-0	26	2	Purdue	
C	Strickland, Larry	245	6-4	26	4	No. Texas St.	Strickland best in league hitting middle guard. RATING—Very good
	Klawitter, Dick	277	6-7	28	2	S. Dakota St.	
Q	Brown, Ed	205	6-2	29	4	USF	Long passer Brown pressed to keep job with Zeke back from Army. RATING—Good
	Bratkowski, Zeke	197	6-1	25	2	Georgia	
	Blanda, George	207	6-2	30	9	Kentucky	
H	Watkins, Bobby	195	5-9	25	3	Ohio State	Watkins plugger; Jeter a scooter; Galimore 9.6 newcomer. J. C. Caroline may bolster, too. RATING—Good
	Jeter, Perry	178	5-7	24	2	Cal. Poly.	
	Bingham, Don	188	6-0	26	2	Sul Ross St.	
	Galimore, Willie	185	6-0	22	1	Florida A&M	
F	Casares, Rick	225	6-2½	26	3	Florida	Casares the top pro rusher in '56. RATING—Excellent
	Hoffman, John	215	6-2½	31	9	Arkansas	

SYSTEM—Slot T. PLAYER LOSSES—None. STRENGTH—Tremendous offensive line, great ends, rushing up middle. WEAKNESS—Brittle halfbacks, sub for McColl in slot, possible effect of Army on Bratkowski. RATING—Excellent.

DEFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Meadows, Ed.	224	6-2	25	3	Duke	Meadows not as awesome as bad-man rep; Atkins in-and-outer; Brackett needs to improve; plenty of size. RATING—Fair
	Atkins, Doug	255	6-8	27	6	Tennessee	
	Brackett, M. L.	248	6-5	24	2	Auburn	
	Hoffman, Jack	235	6-5	27	4	Xavier	
T	Williams, Fred	245	6-4	28	6	Arkansas	Williams, Bishop both big, tested pros. Rookie Leggett exciting prospect. RATING—Good
	Bishop, Bill	245	6-4	26	6	No. Texas St.	
	Leggett, Earl	260	6-3	24	1	LSU	
M	George, Bill	240	6-2½	27	6	Wake Forest	George the hub of defense, also top man. RATING—Excellent
	Helwig, John	208	6-2	29	5	Notre Dame	
LB	Hansen, Wayne	225	6-2½	29	8	Texas West.	Hansen, Fortunato steady but average. HB Wallace moved to reinforce them. RATING—Fair
	Fortunato, Joe	225	6-0	27	3	Miss. St.	
	Wallace, Stan	207	6-1	25	3	Illinois	
H	Caroline, J. C.	190	6-1	24	2	Illinois	Smith underrated defender, Caroline shift would put load on Zucco, not college regular but prized. RATING—Fair
	Smith, Ray Gene	188	5-11	28	4	Midwestern	
	Zucco, Vic	175	6-0	21	1	Mich. St.	
	Johnson, Jack	190	6-3	23	1	Miami (Fla.)	
S	Moore, McNeil	190	6-0	24	3	Sam Houston	Could use lots of support here with Wallace switch. Murphy a sleeper. RATING—Poor
	Ward, Al	185	6-0	22	1	Yale	
	Murphy, Bill	195	6-1	22	1	Fresno State	

PLAYER LOSSES—Caroline may move to offense. STRENGTH—Strong middle guard, solid tackles. WEAKNESS—Erratic ends, inexperienced secondary. RATING—Fair.

THE Chicago Bears are the greatest team in football—except when it comes to winning the big game. The division title eluded them in 1955 after they were snowed under in late season by a poor Cardinal team that theoretically had no business being on the same field with them. They muffed the NFL championship a year ago with an off-key 47-7 drubbing by the Giants.

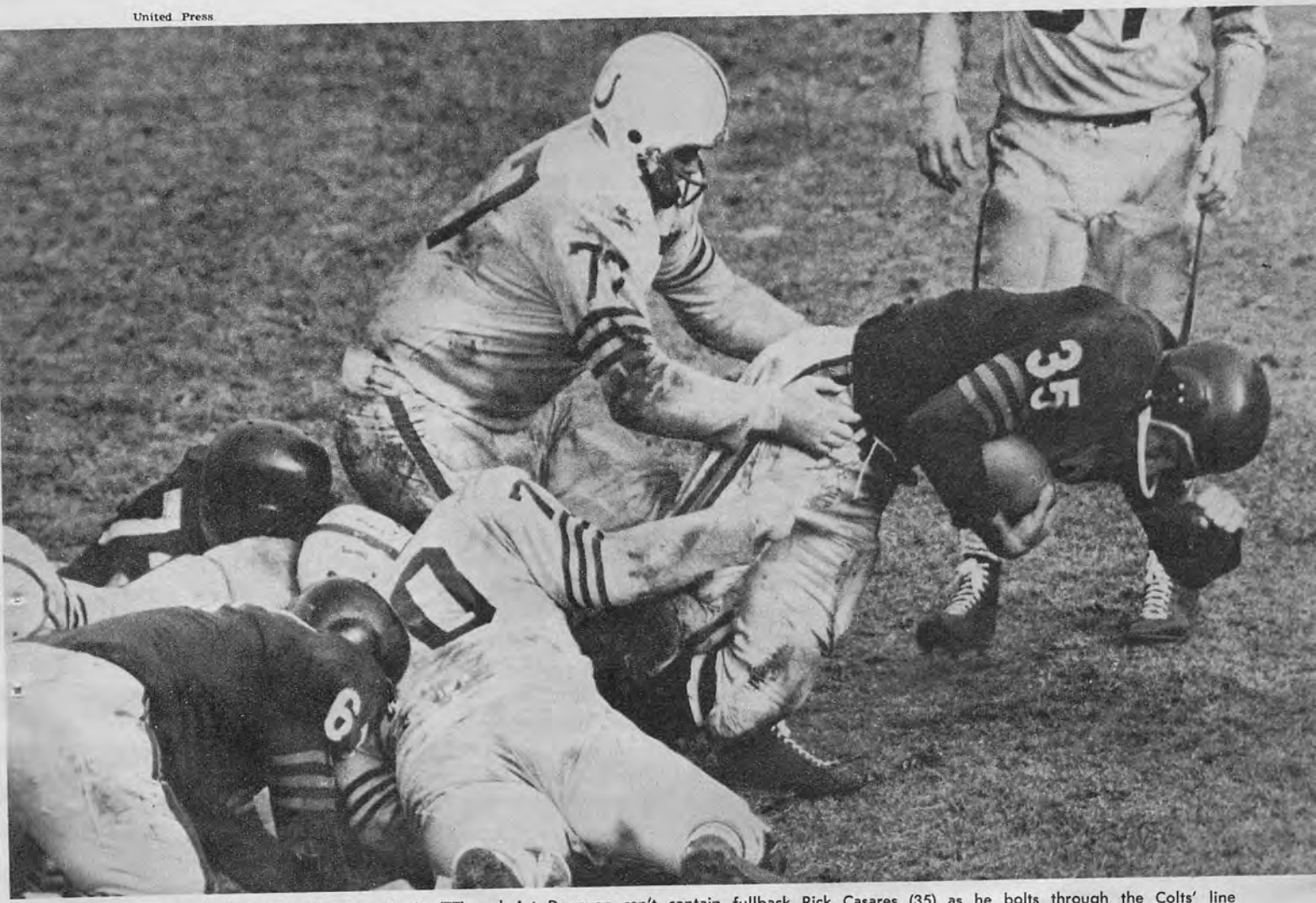
Their personnel, particularly the offensive platoon, is the envy of every coach in pro ball. Years ago, before George Halas discarded the coaching act to count coupons, they were known figuratively as the Monsters of the Midway. The allusion fits them literally now, with an offensive line that averages 245 pounds from tackle to tackle. This team hits you so hard and so fast it should never be beaten.

What's been lacking?

"We've needed a take-charge guy," says Frank Korch, the man who doles out Bear news. "We've got him now in Zeke Bratkowski."

Bratkowski is the spectacular passer who broke in with the Chicagoans in 1954, took over as regular in mid-season and went away to the Army the next two seasons. The Bears like to think he'll become the greatest quarterback of all time, this on a club that includes Sid Luckman in its recent history. Bratkowski will be welcomed back more for his leadership qualities than his physical performance because it's difficult to see where the Bears were

United Press



Mammoth tackles like Tom Finnin (77) and Art Donovan can't contain fullback Rick Casares (35) as he bolts through the Colts' line

Rookie: Earl Leggett
This 260-pounder from Louisiana State, a No. 1 draft choice, is one of the greatest line prospects to hit the pros in a decade, the outstanding tackle in the South for two years, and a fully matured, quick-moving behemoth

Pros' Pro: Wayne Hansen
For seven seasons, whenever the Bears have needed to plug a weak spot along their line, they've called on this adaptable Texan. He's played center, offensive and defensive tackle, guard. Now, he has settled into a linebacking role

hurting at quarterback a year ago. Ed Brown merely led the league in passing, both in average gain per toss (9.92 yards) and percentage of completions (57.1). The well-constructed 205-pounder has the finest arm in football for distance throwing and boots the ball just as far. Zeke has a lot to measure up to for the first-string job.

Reciting the rest of the attacking unit is like running down an all-pro roster. At one end is incomparable Harlon Hill, already a pass-catching legend. The best measure of his value: the Bears wouldn't trade him even up for any man playing. Gene Schroeder would be a starter on any team in the league, but with the Bears he must yield to Jim Dooley, who finished up a service hitch in time to rejoin the Bears late last season. Tackles Bill Wightkin and Kline Gilbert are superb, especially strong on downfield blocking. For guards Stan Jones and Herman Clark you just run out of superlatives. Jones is the most powerful man in the game. Clark weighs 255 and is renowned for his ability to pull out and lead interference. Center Larry Strickland throws up a comfortable 245-pound wall.

Behind him, the handoffs go primarily to Rick Casares, the fullback who monopolized rushing statistics last season. They said, when Casares came to the pros from Florida, he wasn't fast enough to play offense. You couldn't tell it by the 1,126 yards he picked up from scrimmage to lead the NFL. This was a scant 21 shy of the all-time season record set by Steve Van Buren in 1949.

Split wide in the slot position is third end Big Bill McColl, a doctor in the off-season but bad medicine in uniform when he throws his 230 pounds into blocks or leaps with his six feet five inches for a pass. The running-halfback spot gave the Bears trouble last fall because of some bad breaks. The first happened to Perry Jeter, an early-season sensation who terrorized the league with his open-field dashes until he got knocked out of action in the seventh game. Bobby Watkins, a steady gainer, was hobbled all year with a bad knee. The Bears finally turned in desperation to J. C. Caroline. He was a marvel, and the Bears will try to keep him in the same spot this season, but the defensive platoon was sadly weakened when Caroline switched. If a rookie, Willie Galimore of Florida A. and M., is as good as his college movies indicate, Caroline will stay with the defense.

It needs him, because inability to hold down the score is the arguing point against the Bears' claim to greatness. Coach Paddy Driscoll admits defense is his problem.

The ends are familiar: Ed Meadows, an

over-eager scrapper; Doug Atkins, a lazier one; and steady Jack Hoffman. But M. L. Brackett, a huge second-year pro from Auburn who's also played some tackle, is expected to move one of the vets aside. Tackles Fred Williams and Bill Bishop are large and reliable, and get a man-sized boost from Earl Leggett, a 265-pound rookie from Louisiana State who can't miss because of his lateral mobility—a much sought-after quality in a tackle.

The middle guard is Bill George, who's the top man in the defensive setup and strongly merits all-pro consideration—he's been tapped the last two years. He has the strength and agility of a wrestler, a sport he tried successfully at Wake Forest five years ago.

The linebacking is less secure. Joe Fortunato has improved in two years but still isn't top-flight. Wayne Hansen is a versatile man who has played just about every position in the line on offense and defense and does creditably. But the Bears want special ability in these vital posts, where 75 percent of the tackles are made. Stan Wallace, a recognized halfack ace, will be the big experiment on defense. The Bears will move him into a linebacking role. At 207, he's reckoned weighty enough for the switch.

If both he and Caroline are unavailable, it's difficult to assess the deep protection against passing. So much depends on rookies. The Bears went for some real dark horses in the draft: Vic Zucco of Michigan State, Bill Murphy of Fresno State and Al Ward of Yale. To keep some experience on hand, they turn to veterans McNeil Moore and Ray Gene Smith, a couple of small-college products who have shown the mechanical requisites of defensive play—alertness and speed. What the Bears need here, as on offense, is the take-charge guy, like Jack Christiansen of the Lions. Then, surely, they'll never be beaten.

Rick Casares burgeoned into NFL's top ground-gainer in 1956

Kline Gilbert . . . big and swift

Stan Jones . . . the strong man

Ed Brown . . . the long arm

detroit lions

Buddy Parker

The Lions are banking on Layne's comeback, which spurred them in '56, to run a repeat performance and challenge league domination by the Bears

PREDICTION—SECOND

OFFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Middleton, Dave	190	6-1	23	3	Auburn	Middleton's great speed puts him on verge of greatness. Dibble solid vet. Doran used mostly as slot back. RATING—Good
	Dibble, Dorne	195	6-2	28	6	Mich. St.	
	Doran, Jim	200	6-2	30	7	Iowa St.	
	Junker, Steve	218	6-3	22	1	Xavier	
T	Creekmur, Lou	250	6-4	30	8	W & M	Creekmur, a rough old pro, knows all tricks. Overlooked Spencer protects passer. Gordy a highly rated rookie. RATING—Good
	Spencer, Ollie	243	6-2	26	3	Kansas	
	Gordy, John	225	6-4	21	1	Tennessee	
	Liddick, Dave	250	6-3	21	1	Geo. Wash.	
G	Sewell, Harley	230	6-1	26	5	Texas	Sewell most underrated lineman in game. Salsbury has found niche on offense. RATING—Very good
	Salsbury, Jim	235	6-1	25	3	UCLA	
	Campbell, Stan	220	6-0	27	4	Iowa St.	
C	Ane, Charley	260	6-2	26	5	USC	Ane best in game in '56. Osterloh a dark-horse sub. RATING—Excellent
	Osterloh, Carl	220	6-1	21	1	Missouri	
Q	Layne, Bobby	200	6-1	30	10	Texas	Layne comeback kid of '56. Still questionable throwing long. Look for more Reichow. RATING—Fair
	Gilmer, Harry	180	6-0	31	10	Alabama	
	Reichow, Jerry	205	6-2	22	2	Iowa	
H	Gedman, Gene	195	5-10	25	3	Indiana	Gedman real solid threat inside or out; McIlhenny, Cassady proved pros as rookies. Rookie Leahy a slot prospect. RATING—Good
	McIlhenny, Don	195	6-1	22	2	SMU	
	Cassady, Howard	178	5-10	23	2	Ohio St.	
	Leahy, Gerald	210	6-2	21	1	Colorado	
F	Johnson, John Henry	205	6-2	27	4	Ariz. St.	Hart biggest ball carrier in football, but John Henry Johnson looms as top man. Valuable blocker. RATING—Fair
	Hart, Leon	255	6-5	28	8	Notre Dame	
	Tracy, Tom	200	5-9	23	2	Tennessee	

SYSTEM—Slot T. PLAYER LOSSES—None. STRENGTH—Interior line. WEAKNESS—Explosive fullback, sub for Layne. RATING—Fair.

DEFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	McCord, Darris	248	6-4	24	3	Tennessee	McCord fits pattern of ideal big, rangy defense star. Cronin may move ahead of Mains for starter. Adequately stocked. RATING—Good
	Cronin, Gene	225	6-2	24	2	COP	
	Mains, Gil	235	6-3	27	4	Murray St.	
	O'Brien, Chas.	265	6-5	21	1	Valparaiso	
T	Miller, Bob	250	6-2	27	6	Virginia	Krouse, Giant pickup, welded inner defense. Miller a real pro with savvy, bulk. Russell rates look. RATING—Good
	Krouse, Ray	260	6-3	29	7	Maryland	
	Perry, Gerry	240	6-4	26	3	California	
	Russell, Ken	250	6-3	21	1	Bowling Green	
M	Schmidt, Joe	220	6-0	25	5	Pitt	Schmidt the best defensive player in football! RATING—Excellent
	West, Bill	215	6-3	23	1	East. Ore.	
LB	Gandee, Sonny	220	6-0	28	6	Ohio State	Gandee, Long average pro corner men. Martin strictly a kicker. Could use a class infusion here. RATING—Fair
	Long, Bob	230	6-4	23	3	UCLA	
	Martin, Jim	225	6-2	33	8	Notre Dame	
	Olson, Hillmer	210	6-1	24	1	VPI	
H	David, Jim	175	5-10	29	6	Colo. A&M	No apparent weakness. David had best season. Karilivacz alert pass defender. RATING—Good
	Karilivacz, Carl	185	6-0	26	5	Syracuse	
	Smith, Phil	195	5-11	24	1	Jack. St.	
S	Lary, Yale	180	6-0	27	4	Texas A&M	Lary, Christiansen the heart of "Chris's Gang," rated top secondary in game. Rookie Barr goes either way. RATING—Excellent
	Christiansen, Jack	195	6-2	28	7	Colo. A&M	
	Barr, Terry	185	6-0	22	1	Michigan	

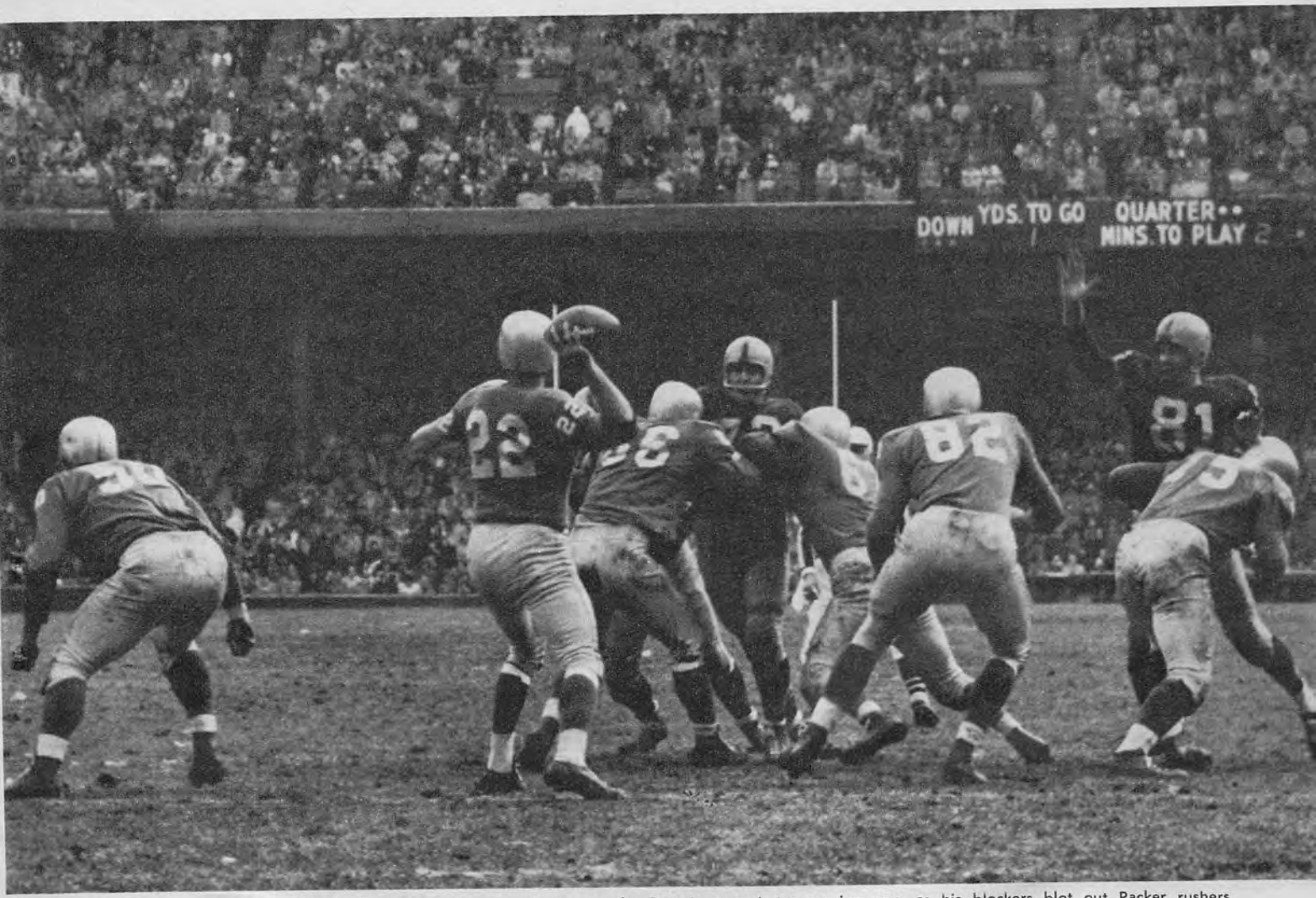
PLAYER LOSSES—None. STRENGTH—Middle linebacker, defensive backfield. WEAKNESS—Need couple of linebacking additions. RATING—Very good.

NOBODY speaks disparagingly of the Detroit Lions, a team that came within a scant half-game of winning the Western division championship. Its returning veterans merit respect. Only one item works against them—they have the misfortune of being on the same side of the draw as the Chicago Bears, one of the greater pro squads of recent years.

Still, if Bobby Layne's head hadn't collided with the ground, courtesy of Ed Meadows, in the curtain-closer with the Bears, the Lions—not Chicago—would be the team to beat in '57.

How important the veteran quarterback is to this team may be gleaned from the won and lost tables. In 1955, when he couldn't raise his throwing arm above shoulder level without pain, the Lions were a dismal last with a 3-9 record. In 1956, when the imperturbable Texan made a fantastic comeback to rank third among the NFL passers, with only Tobin Rote of the Packers boasting more completions, the Lions reversed the numbers and came out with a respectable 9-3. It might be noted the world-champion Giants lost that many games, too, during the regular season.

Layne was further valuable to Detroit for his place-kicking, a chore he assumed for the first time with the retirement of his buddy, Doak Walker. This new role enabled him to win the league scoring crown. Layne is, of course, the key to Lions' hopes this year, too —at the same time, the question mark. Will



Bobby Layne unlimbers the most important weapon in the Detroit arsenal, his passing arm, as his blockers blot out Packer rushers

Rookie: John Gordy
At Tennessee they called Coach Bowden Wyatt the miracle man because within two years he made the Vols unbeatable, but Wyatt passes off the credit to kids he inherited, like this 6-4, 225-pound tackle, who captained the '56 crew

Pros' Pro: Jim Doran
This big Iowa farmer was named the most valuable Lion in 1952 for his work as a defensive end, switched over to the offense to meet a crisis the next season and became a star pass-catcher. He has since been used to plug the vital slot position

his shoulder stay strong? At the age of 30, with 9 pro seasons behind him, can he retain a fine playing edge?

Layne played so much that no one had a chance to form an opinion about his reserve, Jerry Reichow.

The Lions don't feature any spectacular backfield support for Layne, although Gene Gedman, who thrust ahead of touted Hopalong Cassady and hard-running Don McIlhenny to win the running-halfback post, turned out to be the five-yards-a-crack type. The Leon Hart shift to fullback worked out better than expected, especially because he took to the blocking assignment. But 255-pound Leon doesn't have the take-off you'd like in a T-fullback and may lose squatter's rights to John Henry Johnson, for whom they traded Bill Bowman and Bill Stits. Johnson's a bruising blocker and plunger, the type sought since Pat Harder retired.

For the slot-spot, the Lions count again on Jim Doran, an old reliable. Fans should also watch rookies Gerald Leahy of Colorado and Steve Junker of Xavier. The end positions are adorned again by Dave Middleton and Dorne Dibble, a couple of fellows who do a commendable job without attracting any raves. Middleton, a converted college halfback from Auburn, has now had two seasons.

The interior offensive line compares favorably with any around. Lou Creekmur, the old roughneck of pro ball, goes into his eighth season still highly respected—and feared. Ollie Spencer, his opposite tackle number, explodes his blocks. Coach Buddy Parker feels rookie John Gordy has a good future. The guards are Jim Salsbury, whom Red Sanders of UCLA called the best pro-equipped player he ever coached, and Harley Sewell, a terrific Texan who qualifies for all-pro consideration in every respect. Between them squats Charley Ane, the 260-pound Hawaiian who can play any place with facility. He is needed most at the key pivot. His size, strength and refusal to be pushed around by eager middle guards make him a standout.

Parker will pick apart his offense, citing a hidden need here and there, like more ends, but his defense is his pride. The Lions, overall, have probably the foremost unit in the game at squelching plays. Sole room for argument is in the linebacking department. Bob Long and Sherwin Gandee, a pair of erstwhile ends converted into corner men, are below the caliber of the rest of the defensive platoon. Long, though, is still a youngster (23) with the potential you'd expect in a 6-4, 230-pounder. There are no outstanding rookies in sight, either, but it's difficult to be con-

cerned because between Long and Gandee plays the man who is rated the No. 1 defensive player in football today—Joe Schmidt. He's nominally a middle linebacker, but you'll find him all over the field—an opportunist who falls on fumbles, knocks down passes, leads his team in tackles. As the team captain he holds the Lions together.

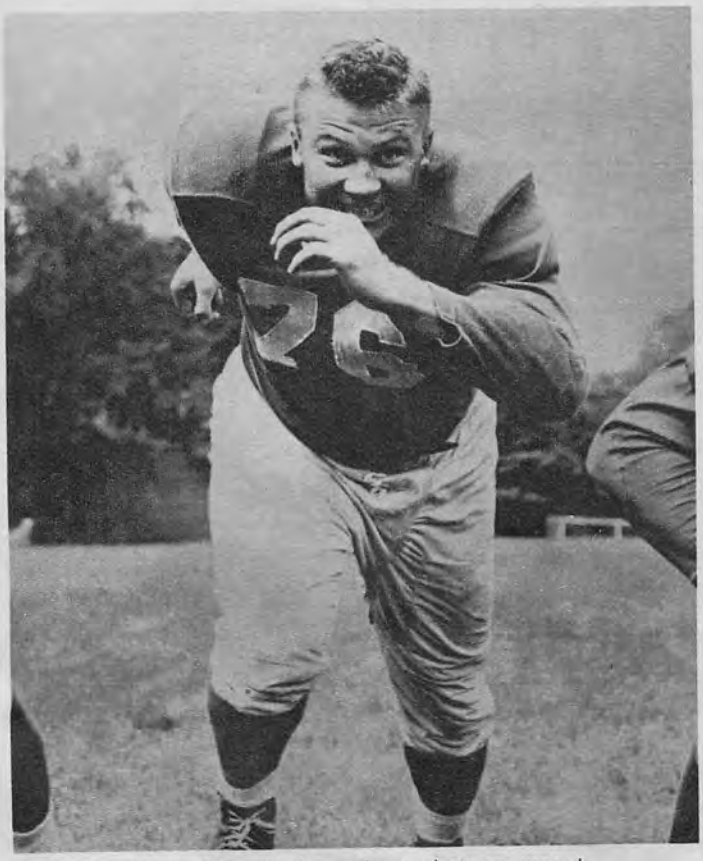
Behind him operates the finest secondary in football. They call the four fellows who make up the wings and safeties Chris's Gang. That's because the leader is Jack Christiansen, one of the raft of defensive experts to come out of Colorado A. and M. Chris is probably the best. For five years he's monopolized all-pro selections. His Gang includes another Colorado Aggie, Jim David, the toughest little man in football, with a long list of hassles to prove it; Carl Karilivacz, a swiftie from Syracuse; and Yale Lary.

For sheer ability, Lary probably tops them all. He'd make a corker on offense if they didn't need him so vitally on the back line, and he's just reaching his peak in a career interrupted by Army service.

Coming into the fold this season is Terry Barr, a versatile Michigan product who's expected to play both ways.

The front line is all-veteran. Ray Krouse, who panned out excellently as a trade acquisition, and underrated Bob Miller hold down the tackle spots, with relief from Gerry Perry. Darris McCord and Gil Mains are the end holdovers, and Mains has a struggle to keep his starting job from going to Gene Cronin, a yearling pro who caught the fancy of the Lion staff.

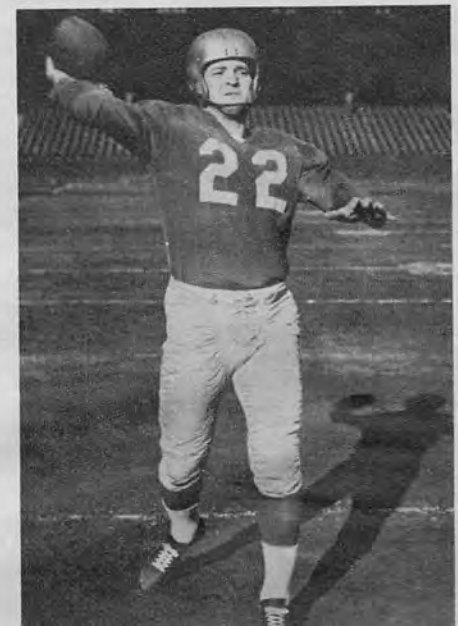
As might be surmised, rookies trying to crack this vastly experienced Lion squad are in for a discouraging time. There won't be more than two or three vacancies if the old-timers don't slump off too suddenly. And the only slump that could perturb the Lions would be caused by a relapse in Layne's throwing arm.



Lou Creekmur covets his reputation as the roughest man around

Don McIlhenny, Gene Gedman, Bobby Layne, Hopalong Cassady (left to right) . . . pilot and ground crew

Bobby Layne . . . wondrous comeback



san francisco forty-niners

San Francisco Forty-Niners, hottest finishers a year ago, depend on Albert to juggle new personnel, and aging, running backs to retain some zip

Frank Albert

PREDICTION—FIFTH

OFFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Wilson, Billy	190	6-4	30	7	San Jose St.	Wilson league leader in pass receiving and Conner flashed as rookie. Soltau steady reserve and placekicker. RATING—Very good
	Conner, Clyde	195	6-2	24	2	COP	
	Soltau, Gordon	195	6-2	31	8	Minnesota	
	Pitts, Ernie	190	6-2	21	1	Denver	
T	Cross, Bobby	250	6-4	26	5	Kilgore JC	Albert rates St. Clair (biggest in league), Cross as good as they come. Rookie Morze might be used here. RATING—Very good
	St. Clair, Bob	265	6-9	26	5	USF—Tulsa	
	Warzeka, Ron	235	6-3	21	1	Montana St.	
	Guy, Dick	225	6-3	22	1	Ohio St.	
G	Connolly, Ted	240	6-3	25	3	USF—Tulsa	Need help here, especially at spot opposite Connolly. Chance Sandusky can fill the bill as a rookie. RATING—Fair
	Palatella, Lou	230	6-2	24	3	Pitt	
	Sandusky, Mike	240	5-11	22	1	Maryland	
	Mitchell, Bob	240	6-1	22	1	Puget Sound	
C	Rubke, Karl	235	6-4	21	1	USC	Weak link on offense. Hope Rubke available, or Morze comes through. RATING—Poor
	Morze, Frank	265	6-6	23	1	Bos. Col.	
	Beatty, Ed	231	6-3	25	3	Mississippi	
Q	Tittle, Y. A.	190	6-0	30	10	LSU	Tittle reason for fine stretch run in '56, good as ever, Morrall, Brodie on heels. RATING—Excellent
	Morrall, Earl	190	6-1	23	2	Mich. St.	
	Brodie, John	195	6-1	22	1	Stanford	
H	Jessup, Bill	195	6-1	27	6	USC	The King (McElhenny) as good as he wants to be. Arenas is a top clutch performer. Both real pros. RATING—Good
	McElhenny, Hugh	198	6-1	28	6	Washington	
	Arenas, Joe	183	5-11	31	7	Omaha	
	Rhodes, Bill	200	6-0	21	1	Western St.	
F	Perry, Joe	210	6-0	30	10	Compton JC	If Perry, in 10th year, shows age, Bill Bowman can step in to keep pace. RATING—Fair
	Bowman, Bill	210	6-2	25	3	W&M	
	Goad, Paul	195	6-0	22	2	Abilene Chr.	

SYSTEM—Wing T. PLAYER LOSSES—Centers Bill Johnson, George Morris. STRENGTH—Still great running attack, qb depth, good ends. WEAKNESS—Middle of line, both guard and center. RATING—Good.

DEFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Bosley, Bruce	240	6-2	23	2	W. Va.	Enough depth with return of Brumfield from Army, come-through of Bosley to switch a couple of men. RATING—Good
	Powell, Charley	230	6-3	24	5	None	
	Brumfield, Jackson	225	6-3	25	2	Miss. So.	
	Yelverton, Billy	220	6-4	24	1	Mississippi	
T	Nomellini, Leo	255	6-3	31	8	Minnesota	Question mark is Toneff, bust in '56, while Nomellini had big comeback year. Herchman can do job. RATING—Good
	Herchman, Bill	240	6-2	24	2	Texas Tech	
	Toneff, Bob	263	6-3	27	5	Notre Dame	
	Gonzaga, John	240	6-3	24	2	None	
M	Sheriff, Stan	218	6-2	25	3	Cal. Poly.	No real class. Some switching possible here. RATING—Poor
	Simpson, Bob	220	6-1	24	1	Neb. Tchrs.	
LB	Henke, Ed	227	6-4	28	5	USC	Help wanted sign out. Henke moved from end, maybe Powell, too. Make or break spot on defense. RATING—Poor
	Carr, Paul	206	6-0	25	3	Houston	
	Barnes, Larry	220	6-2	24	1	Colo. A&M	
	Kuhn, Dave	220	6-1	22	1	Kentucky	
H	Ridlon, Jim	195	6-1	22	1	Syracuse	Berry, Mederos have vacated, so hope lies in rookies Ridlon, Williams and Stits, acquired from Lions. RATING—Fair
	Hazeltine, Matt	205	6-1	24	3	California	
	Williams, Sammy	195	6-1	23	1	California	
	Stits, Bill	198	6-0	26	4	UCLA	
S	Moegle, Dickie	185	6-0	22	3	Rice	Moegle among best in game and Holladay was welcome addition, so safety well set in quality performance. RATING—Very good
	Holladay, Bob	175	5-11	24	2	Tulsa	
	Hunter, Jimmy	195	6-0	22	1	Missouri	
	Smith, J. D.	200	6-1	24	2	N. C. A&T	

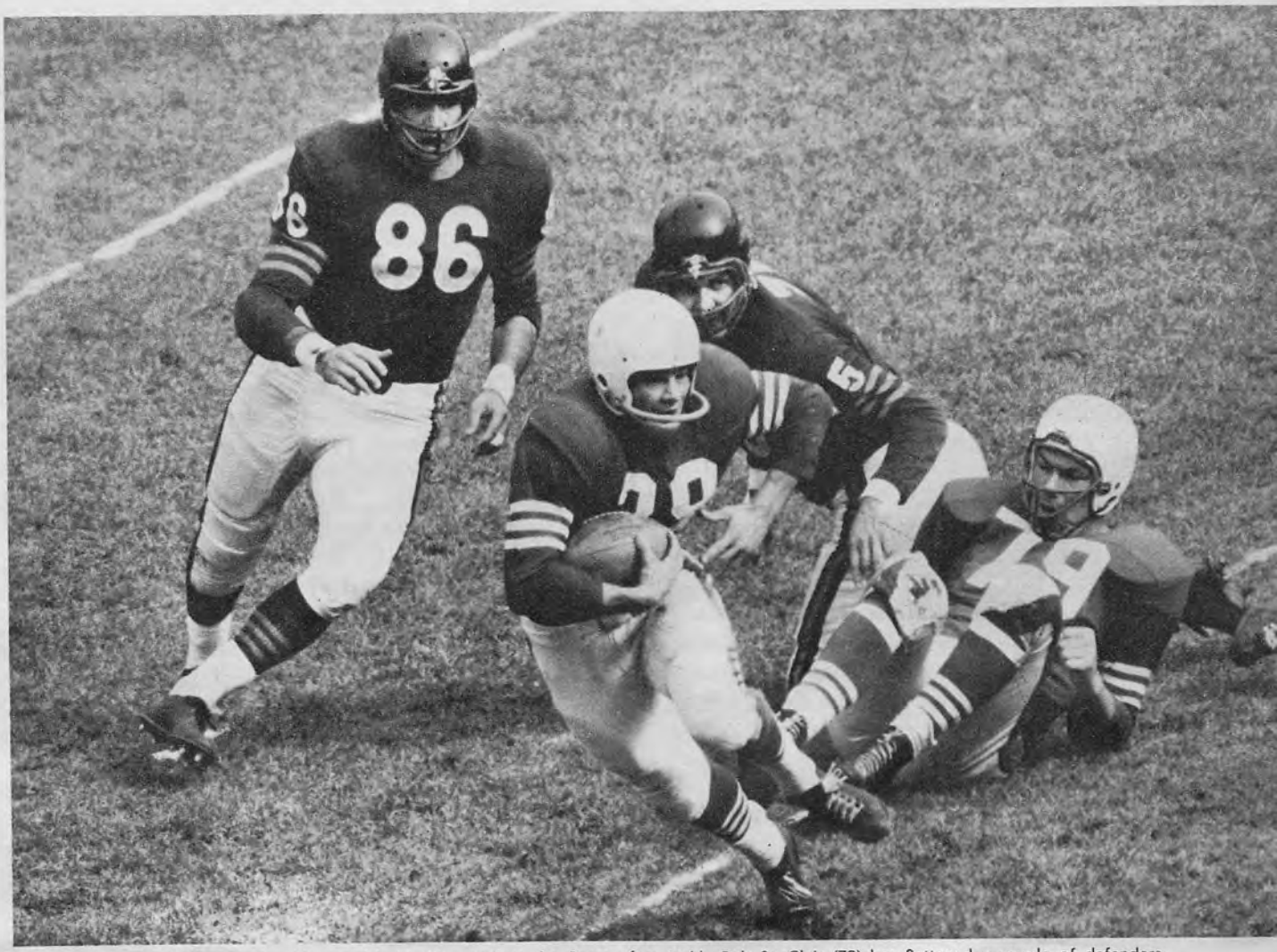
PLAYER LOSSES—Halfback Rex Berry. STRENGTH—Deep backs, ends, tackles. WEAKNESS—Breaking in new halfbacks, new linebackers. RATING—Fair.

THE hottest team in the National Football League after mid-season 1956 was not the New York Giants, the Chicago Bears or the Detroit Lions. It was San Francisco, which, after losing six of its first seven games, went the rest of the campaign unbeaten. Can slick Frankie Albert, settling into his second season as the director of the Golden Gaters, keep up the momentum? Well, as a player, he was always good in the climax department. As a coach, the others have to do it for him, and the Forty-Niners don't stack up as a miracle team.

Once the most feared running ensemble in football, the ball carriers are beginning to wear thin around the edges. The heavy-duty trio of Joe Perry, Hugh McElhenny and John Henry Johnson was broken up when Johnson was traded to the Lions. As part of the payment, the Lions received Bill Bowman, and that may help. Bowman, a fullback, can ease the pressure on Perry, a simmering Jet after nine years of whacks from NFL lines. McElhenny, the King, is still a great open-field threat but you never know when he's going to get hurt. Joe Arenas is a come-through ace, best when they need him to be, but he's 31. Perry is only a year younger and 500 yards shy of the all-time NFL ground-gaining mark.

You can point to Y. A. Tittle as an old-timer on the downgrade, too, age 30, in his tenth season, but the most recent facts don't warrant that estimation. It was Tittle who took charge

United Press



Hugh McElhenny, the King, swirls his hips against the Bears after tackle Bob St. Clair (79) has flattened a couple of defenders

Rookie: Mike Sandusky
Maryland was a soft touch for college teams last year, but their opponents staunchly endorsed the blocky kid at tackle as one man in the line who wouldn't be budged. The Forty-Niners figure that any 235-pounder that tough could do the clearing

Pros' Pro: Joe Arenas
This clutch performer, a wounded survivor of Iwo Jima, has given the Forty-Niners open-field heroics for six seasons with his kickoff and punt returns that have broken up games. His tremendous spirit is infectious, his backfield utility a big lift

of the Forty-Niner renaissance in mid-season a year ago. He passed and handled the team with his old aplomb. Albert, in fact, pridefully states, "The Forty-Niner strength for '57 can be found at quarterback."

The San Francisco skipper likes the way young Earl Morrall came along as the No. 2 man in his rookie season and is enthusiastic over the prospects of John Brodie, the Stanford passing phenomenon chosen in the draft.

If the veteran ball-packers hold up, the attacking echelon will be satisfactory. End Billy Wilson insures a strong completion average in passing. He led NFL receivers last season. The other wing is Clyde Conner, a real surprise pickup as a free agent from the College of the Pacific, who barely made his letter in college but fitted perfectly into the pro concept of an end with speed and good hands. And there's steady Gordy Soltau for field goals and to fill in.

Albert says you couldn't want better pro tackles than Bob St. Clair, a mammoth 6-9 with leadership qualities, and Bobby Cross. The rest of the line is what bothers him. He needs to dig up a guard to pair with Ted Connolly, who rejoined the Forty-Niners from military service in mid-season and was a tremendous help. Maybe Mike Sandusky, a fireplug husky from Maryland, is the answer. George Morris retired from playing center, leaving a gap to be filled by rookies Karl Rubke or Frank Morze, big enough but raw.

As a player, Albert was a flexible genius at adjusting himself to any situation. He has shown the same adaptability in his coaching. He juggled positions in '56 until he found a winning combination, and he'll do more juggling in the upcoming season.

For instance, he finds himself wonderfully stocked in defensive ends. He has Bruce Boseley, Charley Powell, Ed Henke and, now, Jackson Brumfield, returning from the Army. He's painfully short, however, of linebackers. So it looks as though Powell and Henke will find themselves as behind-the-line corner men if they can show the maneuverability required by the position. Other linebacking possibilities are rookies Larry Barnes and Dave Kuhn and veterans Stan Sheriff and Paul Carr, the latter also a halfback possibility.

The tackles are securely anchored by Leo Nomellini, exponent of the flying tackle when you put him in a wrestling ring and of the more conservative bunny hug when ball carriers pop up in his vicinity. Leo was supposed to be over the hill or losing interest a couple of seasons ago. He rebounded with one of his great season efforts in '56. Bill Herchman panned out as a rookie last season to provide added ballast. The Forty-Niners are hoping

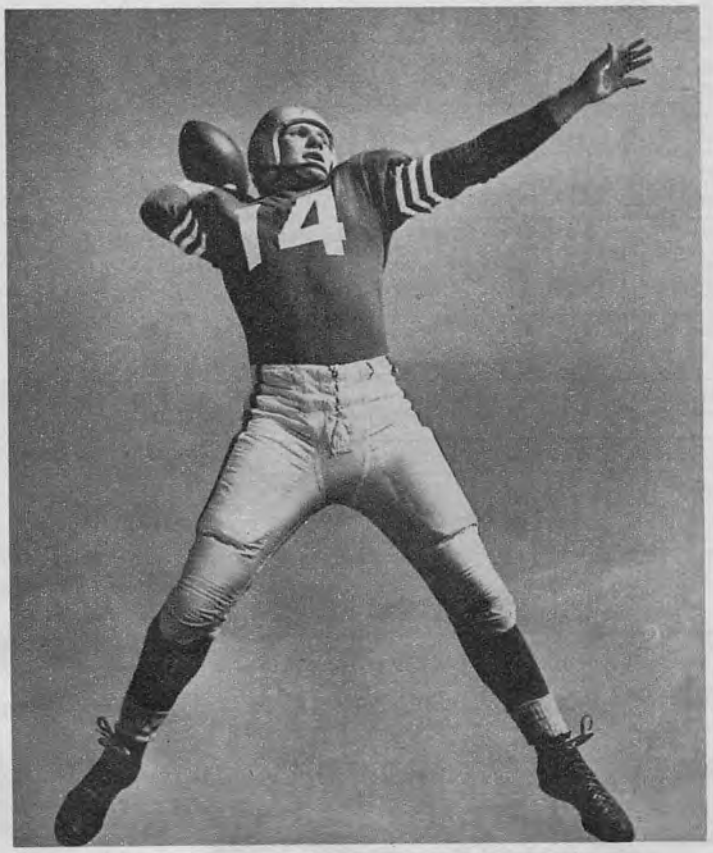
the return of Bob Toneff to tackle play will revive him. Potentially one of the great linemen in football, he was a severe flop last year as a middle guard, an unaccountable failure because Bob is a sprightly 27, a strong 263, and quick. If he doesn't make it at tackle, he may be tried at end.

Singled out as a serious deficiency by Albert is the defensive secondary. This was depleted by the retirement of Captain Rex Berry and the anticipated retirement of George Maderos. Matt Hazeltine, a linebacker his first two seasons, has the sort of ranginess that might fit him for one of the wingback posts. Rated almost a cinch to break into the platoon as a rookie is Jim Ridlon, a talented player from Syracuse who played his college ball under the shadow of Jim Brown, but is an extremely versatile man on the gridiron. He could make it big.

The deep backs are less of a worry, with the availability of Bob Holladay, picked up when the Rams didn't want him a year ago, and Dickie Moegle. Moegle, the baby-faced kid from Rice, made his college rep as a ball carrier who broke loose repeatedly for long gainers as he did in the Cotton Bowl. With the Forty-Niners he's had sporadic shots at playing offense, but for the most part he's too valuable in his current capacity as a safety to use both ways. After two full seasons, he's on the verge of all-star status, a swift pass defender with sure hands.

This doesn't exhaust the roster of secondary possibilities. The Forty-Niners secured Bill Stits in the same trade that brought them Bowman. Stits, a UCLA product, arrived as a swing man for the Lions, but it's on defense that he holds the most promise. Another defense specialist of great potential is Sammy Williams, a California rookie who's been in the armed services.

Albert's big problem is to take all this new talent and make it work with the old.



Y. A. Tittle's passing paced the Forty-Niners' closing rush

Hugh McElhenny . . . hurryin' again

Leo Nomellini . . . the lion

Joe Perry . . . grand old man

baltimore colts

Baltimore Colts to get strong youth infusion, but rising aspirations are still built around Alan Ameche and George Shaw, now third-year veterans

Weeb Ewbank

PREDICTION—THIRD

OFFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Mutscheller, Jim	215	6-1	26	4	Notre Dame	Nothing spectacular. Lack extra burst of speed, Berry needs more heft for blocking. Grisham a rookie dark horse. RATING—Fair
	Berry, Ray	190	6-2	23	3	SMU	
	Grisham, Joe Neal	190	6-3	24	1	Austin Peay	
	Harmon, Jack	188	5-11	21	1	East. Oregon	
T	Parker, Jim	255	6-3	23	1	Ohio State	Perennial weak spot of Colts. Parker the big hope but down-rated as lackadaisical. Owens could surprise. RATING—Poor
	Preas, George	230	6-2	23	3	VPI	
	Jackson, Ken	235	6-2	26	6	Texas	
	Owens, Luke	242	6-2	23	1	Kent State	
G	Spinney, Art	228	6-1	29	6	Boston Col.	Solid spot on line, with Spinney fine blocker, Sandusky top pass protector. RATING—Good
	Sandusky, Alex	228	6-3	24	4	Clarion	
	Myrha, Steve	230	6-1	22	1	No. Dakota	
C	Szymanski, Dick	230	6-3	25	2	Notre Dame	If Army lets Szymanski out in time, all's well. RATING—Very good
	Nutter, Buzz	225	6-4	26	4	VPI	
Q	Shaw, George	190	6-0	24	3	Oregon	Shaw lacks take-charge verve, in for strong challenge by Unitas. Davidson rusty. RATING—Good
	Unitas, John	190	6-1	24	2	Louisville	
	Davidson, Cotton	180	6-1	26	2	Baylor	
H	Moore, Lenny	190	6-1	23	2	Penn State	Great breakaway speed here, but Moore can be lazy, Vessels needs savvy, Girard knows all the tricks. RATING—Very good
	Dupre, L. G.	190	5-11	24	3	Baylor	
	Vessels, Billy	190	6-0	26	2	Oklahoma	
	Girard, Jug	175	5-10	30	10	Wisconsin	
	Womble, Royce	186	6-0	25	4	N. Texas St.	
F	Ameche, Alan	217	6-0	23	3	Wisconsin	The Horse finally becoming a top all round threat. Pricer rated high as blocker. RATING—Excellent
	Young, Dick	210	5-11	25	3	Chattanooga	
	Pricer, Billy	210	5-10	22	1	Oklahoma	

SYSTEM—Wing T. PLAYER LOSSES—Vessels talking retirement. STRENGTH—Top fullback, break-away halfbacks, agile guards. WEAKNESS—Long passing game, tackles, end speed. RATING—Good.

DEFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Marchetti, Gino	245	6-4	29	6	USF	Rough on passers, but lack speed, particularly Joyce. Marchetti, if right, is best in business. RATING—Good
	Joyce, Don	250	6-3	27	7	Tulane	
	Feamster, Tom	260	6-7	25	2	Florida St.	
	Koman, Bill	220	6-2	22	2	No. Carolina	
T	Donovan, Art	265	6-3	31	8	Boston Col.	Big, rough characters. Only fear is Donovan slow-up. Big Daddy Lipscomb fine pickup. RATING—Very good
	Lipscomb, Gene	282	6-6	26	4	None	
	White, Bob	240	6-2	22	1	Otterbein	
	Simmons, Don	230	6-1	23	1	Tenn. Poly	
M	Patera, Jack	240	6-1	24	3	Oregon	Big future expected of Patera, ousted vet Campy. RATING—Good
	Campanella, Joe	245	6-2	26	6	Ohio State	
LB	Pellington, Bill	230	6-2	28	5	Rutgers	No big names, and Eggers rapped for size, but rookie Shinnick might solve all worries. Pellington steady vet. RATING—Fair
	Eggers, Doug	210	6-0	26	4	S. Dak. St.	
	Shinnick, Don	231	6-0	22	1	UCLA	
	Lodge, Gerry	210	6-0	25	1	Army	
H	Taseff, Carl	190	5-11	27	6	John Carroll	Should be steady with heady vets Taseff, Shula; but fast, young blood would help, too. RATING—Fair
	Shula, Don	190	6-0	26	6	John Carroll	
	Nyers, Dick	178	5-11	22	2	Ind. Cent.	
	Nelson, Andy	180	6-1	24	1	Memphis St.	
S	Thomas, Jesse	180	5-11	27	3	Mich. St.	Rechichar one of the best, but Thomas poor tackler. Rookie Underwood should be big help. RATING—Fair
	Rechichar, Bert	210	6-2	26	6	Tennessee	
	Underwood, Ronnie	190	6-2	21	1	Arkansas	
	Call, Jack	190	6-2	22	1	Colgate	

PLAYER LOSSES—Tom Finnin, maybe Marchetti. STRENGTH—Defense against inside running, rushing the passer. WEAKNESS—Tackles, ends lack speed to protect against wide stuff; pass defense needs bolstering. RATING—Good.

L.G. (Long Gone) Dupre takes to the air against the Forty-Niners, hurtling fallen mate Billy Vessels, while Jim Mutscheller (84) looks on

The Baltimore Colts as a force in professional football came to power two years ago with the debuts of Alan (The Horse) Ameche and George Shaw. The maintenance of that surge still depends on the two glory boys of '55.

But changes have been wrought. Shaw, the young Oregonian with the equipment to be the foremost young quarterback in the game, was useless through most of 1956 because of a knee collapse. The peach fuzz has been shorn. He's got to show now he deserves all the bright words written about him. Above all, he's got to become the take-charge guy the Colts need in action. Up to now Shaw's personality has been on the reticent side, which isn't synonymous with leadership.

Ameche, too, has changed, and his stock has gone up. While Baltimore raved over his shoulder-weaving runs in '55, the coaches groaned over his blocking deficiencies. These have been corrected, and Ameche stands as the backbone of the Colt attack.

Shaw, meanwhile, faces a stern job challenge from John Unitas, his stand-in a year ago, and Cotton Davidson, returned from the Army. Unitas, cast loose by the quarterback-shy Steelers, was a revelation.

On the producing spot, too, is Coach Weeb Ewbank, the Paul Brown disciple who jumped the Colts to fourth-place finishes in his two seasons, but has fallen one game shy in both instances of reaching the break-even mark in victories. A red-hot football city like Baltimore is not noted for its patience, although the management gave Weeb another contract.

The Colts' front office has worked hard to surround Weeb with a winning team, but the exhaustive rebuilding of the dismal squad

Rookie: Jim Parker
The 255-pound mass from Ohio State was voted college football's outstanding lineman in 1956, based on his ferocity as a middle guard defender. But the Colts need him most as an offensive tackle for their highly skilled ball-carrying brigade

Pros' Pro: Bill Pellington
A real dark horse, Pellington is a 230-pound linebacker who couldn't win his high school letter, was obscure at Rutgers and flunked a trial with the Browns. He hasn't missed a single play on defense the last two years. He also calls the alignments

inherited from the defunct Dallas Texans four years ago isn't complete. The Colts fall shy in a few places.

For instance, the offensive line has been consistently weak at the tackles. Cognizant of it, Baltimore drafted Jim Parker, college football's standout lineman of 1956. He was a guard at Ohio State, but the Colts figure his 255 pounds at tackle. They wonder only if he has the combative urge. High on the draft list, too, was another Ohio tackle product, 242-pound Luke Owens of Kent State. These boys must make good for the Colt attack to improve.

The ends won't cause any defensive secondary to quake, although Jim Mutscheller has developed into a fine pro. Not endowed with great natural ability, the erstwhile Notre Dame captain has built himself up to a solid 215 pounds and parlayed sure hands and a great competitive instinct into a steady job. Ray Berry is too slim to stand the gaff of pro ball. What the Colts need is a Hill or Howton, a man who can break up a ball game. They have a dark horse in mind, one Joe Neal Grisham from little Austin Peay down South, who has one thing going for him—he was Hill's high-school mate.

On the bright side, the guards are in good hands. Art Spinney rates far greater recognition for his blocking excellence on sweeps, and Alex Sandusky has become a top-crust performer in the line. While Dick Szymanski was in the Army last year, Buzz Nutter filled in at center. Szymanski may accumulate enough leave time to rejoin the Colts in September, which means they get a pivot who was ranked with the best in the NFL as a rookie.

The halfbacks scintillate, too. If Lenny Moore weren't so lazy when someone else has the ball, he might be all-pro stuff. He led the team in scoring, was second in ground-gaining and had a phenomenal 7.5 average as a rookie. There isn't a niftier runner in the game at picking his way through a tackler-strewn field. L. G. Dupre has shown in two years he's pro caliber. Billy Vessels was something of a disappointment last year after all the buildup. He thought he could run over those big pro defenders and had his troubles—so much so that he was talking retirement when last heard. For three seasons the Colts have been waiting for Royce Womble, a rambler from North Texas State, to operate on sound underpinning. This looks like the year, and he'll show them all how to spring loose for passes.

To their backfield the Colts have also added Billy Pricer of Oklahoma, a rookie with great punting ability, a sound blocker but a mite small for fullback. There's speculation about using him as a linebacker on defense.

The Colts pioneered the use of awesome giants along the frontal defenses with the Fearsome Five of Gino Marchetti, Tom Finnin, Joe Campanella, Art Donovan and Don Joyce, but that huge array is breaking up.

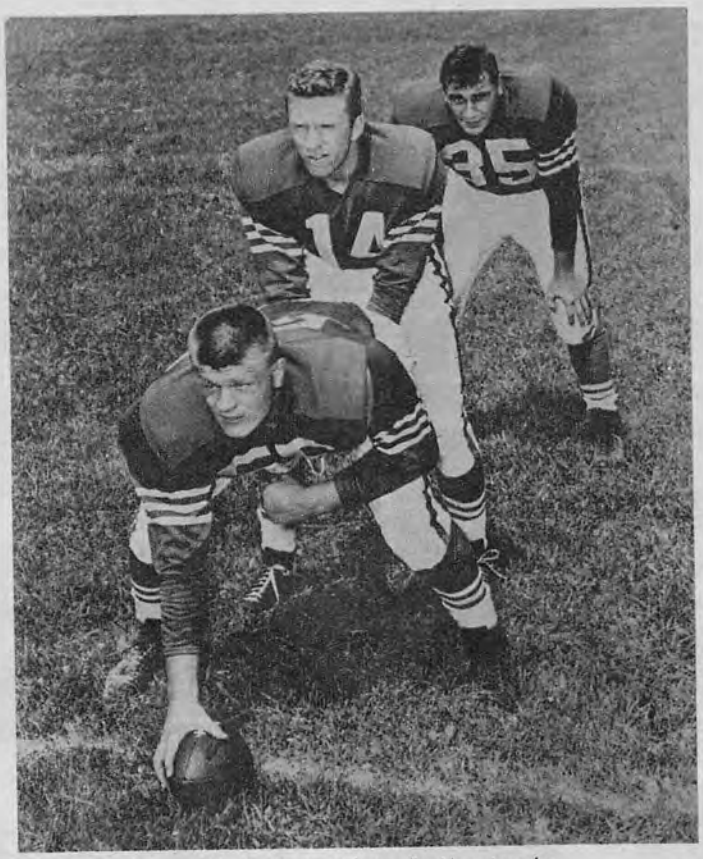
Marchetti, rooted in California, persistently threatens to quit. Finnin, a Chicagoan, was peddled to the Cards. Campanella lost his middle guard job to Jack Patera, a more mobile man who fits the new concept. Don Joyce isn't satisfactory at end because he's not quick. Only Art Donovan, 265 pounds of tackle, the one man the pros don't run over, stands solid—an elder statesman of 31.

Tom Feamster, a rangy 6-7, has potential at end. Gene (Big Daddy) Lipscomb already displaced Finnin last year without a noticeable void—he weighs 282.

The Colts have professed concern for four years over their linebacking, but Bill Pellington has developed into a real pro at a job he never tried before he joined the original Colts as a free agent. Nobody'll push him around. Doug Eggers is the guy they say is too small at 210 to handle the physical demands of the job. If so, and a segment of the Colts says it isn't so, relief is in sight. Moving onto the Colts is Don Shinnick, a tremendous defensive prospect from UCLA, where he was a guard and blocking quarterback, too. He weighs 230 —all of it talent. He could very well be their rookie of the year.

The Colts are looking for new talent like Shinnick to bolster their secondary, which was considered the club's weakest point last year. Vulnerability to passing hurt the Colts. Vet Carl Taseff had a good year, but Don Shula hobbled on bad ankles and Bert Rechichar was on and off the injured list. Theoretically, they can do the job but, just in case, the Colts will try out Ronnie Underwood, an Arkansas swiftie, Reuben Saage of Baylor and Andy Nelson, a find from Memphis State.

If you don't win with the old, try the new.



Center Dick Szymanski, qb George Shaw, fb Alan Ameche

Bert Rechichar . . . safety catch

Jack Patera . . . middle bulwark

Lennie Moore . . . slippery sophomore

green bay packers

Lisle Blackbourn

Tobin Rote's greatly praised, but the Packers are mired. A thorough overhaul of player personnel might give him chance to show off quarterback greatness

PREDICTION—FOURTH

OFFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Howton, Bill	190	6-2	27	6	Rice	Plenty classy and deep, with all-pro Howton, McGee back from Army. Knafelc proven and Kramer also available. RATING—Excellent
	Knafelc, Gary	220	6-4	25	4	Colorado	
	McGee, Max	200	6-3	25	2	Tulane	
	Deschaine, Dick	210	6-1	25	3	None	
T	Szafaryn, Len	225	6-3	29	7	No. Carolina	Trouble spot. It'll be up to rookies to make the grade, with particular hopes held out for rangy Vereen. RATING—Poor
	Vereen, Carl	240	6-6	21	1	Georgia Tech	
	Truax, Dalton	235	6-2	22	1	Tulane	
	Macerelli, John	230	6-2	26	3	St. Vincent	
G	Skibinski, Joe	228	5-11	28	4	Purdue	Mediocre but acceptable. Rookies could also creep into picture, maybe Nisby. Barry, '54 regular, provides lift. RATING—Fair
	Barry, Al	235	6-2	26	2	USC	
	Amundsen, Norm	230	5-11	26	2	Wisconsin	
	Smith, Jerry	260	6-3	26	3	Wisconsin	
C	Ringo, Jim	230	6-2	25	5	Syracuse	Dependable and strong Ringo is a bulwark. RATING—Very good
	Lauer, Larry	235	6-3	28	4	Alabama	
Q	Rote, Tobin	205	6-3	29	8	Rice	Tremendous depth. A hot Rote is best in football. Parilli, Hornung spell him. RATING—Excellent
	Hornung, Paul	210	6-2	21	1	Notre Dame	
	Parilli, Babe	190	6-1	28	4	Kentucky	
H	Carmichael, Al	190	6-0	28	5	USC	Kramer, groomed as slot back, is honors candidate. However, urgent need for strong ball carrier. RATING—Fair
	Johnson, Joe	195	6-0	27	4	Bos. Col.	
	Kramer, Ron	225	6-3	22	1	Michigan	
	Wineberg, Ken	185	6-3	21	1	TCU	
F	Ferguson, Howie	210	6-2½	27	5	None	If ailing knee heals, Ferguson (as of '55) can challenge any fb in pro ball. RATING—Very good
	Cone, Fred	200	5-11	31	7	Clemson	
	Quillian, Ron	205	6-2	22	1	Tulane	

SYSTEM—Slot T. PLAYER LOSSES—Tackles John Sandusky, Bob Skoronski; guards Buddy Brown, Forrest Gregg; qb Bart Starr; back Jack Losch. STRENGTH—Passing team of Rote and Howton, power threat up middle. WEAKNESS—Lack of class at guard, experience at tackle, no breakaway threat. RATING—Very good.

DEFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Martinkovic, John	245	6-3	30	7	Xavier	Depends on how vets like Massey, Martinkovic come around. Have ability, but don't realize on it always. RATING—Fair
	Massey, Carlton	210	6-4	27	4	Texas	
	Borden, Nate	225	6-1	25	3	Indiana	
	Temp, Jim	230	6-4	23	2	Wisconsin	
T	Helluin, Jerry	265	6-2	28	6	Tulane	Another case of being as good as they want to be, particularly Hanner. Sacrifice some speed for size (Helluin). RATING—Good
	Hanner, Dave	250	6-2	27	6	Arkansas	
	Belotti, George	240	6-3	23	1	USC	
	Lucky, Bill	250	6-3	26	4	Baylor	
M	Forrester, Bill	235	6-3	25	5	SMU	Strong core of defense. Forrester is tough. RATING—Very good
	Hudock, Mike	220	6-3	23	1	Miami (Fla.)	
LB	Bettis, Tom	225	6-2	24	3	Purdue	Make-or-break spots. Bettis and Palumbo get big chances to pay off on dormant potential. RATING—Fair
	Palumbo, Sam	220	6-2	25	3	Notre Dame	
	Nisby, John	230	6-0	21	1	COP	
	Bestor, Glen	220	6-1	22	1	Wisconsin	
H	Bookout, Billy	180	5-11	25	3	Austin	Adequate protection insured by Bookout, White. Kinard may play offense. Watch rookie Gilliam. RATING—Fair
	White, Gene	190	6-3	25	2	Georgia	
	Gilliam, Frank	190	6-2	23	1	Iowa	
	Kinard, Billy	185	6-0	23	2	Mississippi	
S	Dillon, Bobby	185	6-1	27	6	Texas	Dillon a perennial all-star. Gremminger has year under belt, supported by old pros. Val Joe Walker may play. RATING—Very good
	Gremminger, Hank	200	6-2	24	2	Baylor	
	Rich, Herb	180	5-11	28	8	Vanderbilt	
	Petitbon, John	185	5-11	26	4	Notre Dame	

PLAYER LOSSES—Linebackers Roger Zatkoff, Deral Teteak. STRENGTH—Greatly bolstered secondary, punishing tackles. WEAKNESS—New set of linebackers, lack of speed up front. RATING—Fair.

THE Green Bay Packers this season will debut a spanking new stadium to show that the traditional little giant of pro football is still in business. With it they hope to spring a rejuvenated Packer eleven, also new in the sense that nearly half the positions in their offensive and defensive platoons may be manned by ingenues acquired in the draft, fresh faces from swaps with other clubs, and fellows who've been away in service.

It'll be an interesting experiment. The Packers had to do something. Although they were known in the Western division as a club that left plenty of lumps after bumping noggins on a Sunday afternoon, and as a club that could dump a contender like Detroit, they lacked the something extra to be a winner. As a matter of fact, the Packers are the poor little cousins of the Western division. They haven't had a winning season since 1947 (when they finished a mediocre 6-5-1). Last year they tied the Rams for the cellar.

Yet, their personnel commands respect. To the football buffs, Tobin Rote is the greatest quarterback in the game, a fellow who's never made it big only because his supporting cast hasn't measured up to his capabilities.

The rugged Rice product has demonstrated, in his seven years in the NFL, that no signal caller is more dangerous when he's forced to lug the ball himself, and that his passing arm is the kind that pays off in long touchdown

United Press

Al Carmichael slams to the Rams' one-yard line before Bill Sherman slaps on a horse-collar as the Packers roll to a 42-17 win

Rookie: Paul Hornung
The highly publicized Notre Dame quarterback was rated the No. 1 collegian in the country by the Packers, who made him their bonus pick. If they didn't need help at his normal spot, he was versatile enough to play any of the backfield positions

United Press

Pros' Pro: Fred Cone
Cone wasn't supposed to report a year ago but the Packers needed someone to placekick so urgently he was persuaded to return. He wound up as a regular on the offensive unit, was a determined ball carrier. When at Clemson, Cone never kicked

heaves. On his hot days, Rote is unbeatable.

His favorite target, Billy Howton, also a Rice product, has been compared to the great Don Hutson, the ultimate accolade in Green Bay. Howton is a slippery end who led the league in the number of touchdown passes caught, 12, and was second only to Billy Wilson of the Forty-Niners in total receptions.

These are the two kingpins of the Packers. Add to them the two most publicized college players of the past two seasons—Paul Hornung of Notre Dame and Ron Kramer of Michigan. Hornung, the bonus pick, is a Rote-type quarterback, big enough (210 pounds) to pull the ball down to his elbow and charge through the line. The skeptics doubt that he has the accuracy required of a pro passer, so there's a strong chance he'll wind up as an offensive halfback or a defensive back. Here again some doubt his speed capacity to handle those chores. But if not at quarterback, he'll be used someplace. The Packers aren't hurting for signal callers since they reacquired Babe Parilli in a swap with the Browns.

Kramer, an immensely powerful end, probably will be groomed to play the slot-back position, for which he is appropriately fitted. He's a 225-pounder who can handle the key blocking assignments, and he's a fine pass receiver. The Packers can spare him from end because in addition to Howton they have Gary Knafelc, a dangerous pass receiver, and Max McGee, who enjoyed an auspicious rookie season in 1954 before reporting to the Army.

These aren't the only rookies on Coach Liz Blackbourn's planning board. Both tackles and one starting guard on the offensive platoon a year ago won't be around. Joe Skibinski is the holdover guard. Veteran Len Szafaryn may regain a tackle job, and Al Barry, a '54 regular guard, comes back from Army duty. John Macerelli, who can play either spot, was picked up from the Browns. Otherwise, it's all new. Carl Vereen, a 6-6 Georgia Tech alumnus, gets a crack at tackle. Dalton Truax, Cecil Morris and John Nisby are other first-year men of promise. The one interior position that needs no settling is center, where Jim Ringo is great, although unfortunately overlooked by all-pro selectors.

The uncertainty on the front wall extends to the running attack, which could use more oomph. Fullback Howie Ferguson, the league terror in 1955, ran on stiff knees last year and the results showed it. If he's healed, the Packers are okay there. The ground game got so bad, Green Bay had to revive Fred Cone, the placekick specialist, and hand him the ball. He responded with his best pro season. But Cone's no chicken and hasn't the all-around class or speed to hold a key running spot. As of now, there's no important relief in sight.

Al Carmichael and Joe Johnson, a pair of holdovers, have done most of their running as flankers or slot men, where they're now challenged by Kramer.

Most of the new backs in the Green Bay picture are concentrated in the defensive secondary. There, the Packers have another fellow who makes most of the all-pro lists, one-eyed Bobby Dillon, an uncanny guy at spotting a ball in the air. But he can't do it alone. So, to help him, the Packers acquired Herb Rich from the Giants, John Petitbon and Billy Kinard from the Browns, returned Gene White from the armed-service lists and unveiled rookie Frank Gilliam, a catlike customer who played end on Iowa's Rose Bowl champs. A season's experience may have been just what Hank Gremminger needed to become a strong safety. The Packer fans like the tackling flair of Billy Bookout.

Biggest changeover on the defense is at the vital linebacking positions. The two bastions of recent seasons, Deral Teteak and Roger Zatkoff, are gone. Teteak retired, and Zatkoff, a fellow admired as a "contact" football player, signified his intention to quit the game before the Packers peddled him to the Browns. In exchange, they got Sam Palumbo, who may fit snugly into the same role. With the Browns, Notre Dame Sam didn't get a real chance to show his linebacking prowess. He's a deadly tackler. The Packers will have to use him. To replace Teteak, there's Tom Bettis, whose qualifications are excellent. This is his third season, and all he needs is the chance to play. The middle guard spot is in the capable grasp of Bill Forester, who's had four seasons to make it his own private domain.

On the front line, the Packers get a lift at end with the pickup of ex-Brown Carlton Massey, who'll move ahead of either Nat Borden or John Martinkovic. Martinkovic has the capacity, if he feels like hustling. The same holds with the tackles, Dave Hanner and Jerry Helluin, a pair of man mountains who could use some get-up-and-go.

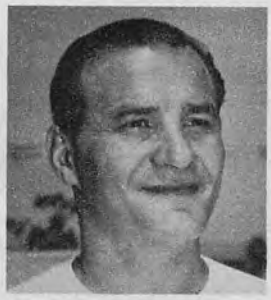
Jim Ringo is an unsung anchor of the Packers' forward wall

Dave Hanner . . . needs incentive

Howie Ferguson . . . rugged when right

Joe Skibinski . . . running guard

los angeles rams



Sid Gillman

When the Los Angeles Rams traded away the core of their title-winning team they flopped to the basement. To rise, they need Norman Van Brocklin back at the helm again

PREDICTION—SIXTH

OFFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Hirsch, Elroy	191	6-1	34	12	Wisconsin	Crazylegs doesn't seem to slow up; Clarke has all-pro makings. Boyd again fits sprinter speed into slot position. RATING—Very good
	Clarke, Leon	220	6-4	24	2	USC	
	Boyd, Bob	203	6-2	29	7	Loyola	
	Miller, Ron	201	6-4	24	2	USC	
	Carey, Bob	220	6-5	27	4	Mich. St.	
T	Fry, Bob	225	6-4	26	3	Kentucky	Average strength with Fry (small for NFL tackle) and Holtzman on tap again and Strugar a rookie threat. RATING—Fair
	Holtzman, Glenn	249	6-3	26	3	N. Texas St.	
	Strugar, George	245	6-5	22	1	Washington	
	Gillioz, Buddy	235	6-2	25	1	Houston	
G	Putnam, Duane	231	6-0	28	6	COP	Top spot on line. Nothing to be desired in Putnam (great blocker) or Hock. RATING—Excellent
	Hock, John	234	6-2	30	5	Santa Clara	
	Smith, Don	235	6-1	22	1	Miami (O.)	
C	Griffin, Bob	243	6-3	28	5	Arkansas	Problem. Griffin succeeds small Daugherty. RATING—Poor
	Daugherty, Dick	223	6-1	28	5	Oregon	
Q	Van Brocklin, Norm	200	6-1	31	10	Oregon	Late in '56 Van showed he hasn't lost touch if they let him play. Wade erratic. RATING—Fair
	Wade, Billy	191	6-2	26	4	Vanderbilt	
	Bukich, Rudy	191	6-1	25	3	USC	
H	Waller, Ron	179	5-11	24	3	Maryland	So much depth Wilson may be used at full. Waller slasher, Arnett has potential to be sensation of year. RATING—Excellent
	Arnett, Jon	180	5-11	22	1	USC	
	Wilson, Tom	197	6-0	24	2	None	
	Myers, Brad	196	6-1	27	3	Bucknell	
F	Younger, Tank	226	6-3	29	9	Grambling	Reserves the bugaboo. The Tank can't go it alone. RATING—Fair
	Cothren, Paige	195	5-11	22	1	Mississippi	

SYSTEM—Slot T. PLAYER LOSSES—Center John Morrow, fullback Joe Marconi. STRENGTH—Top guards, running backs. WEAKNESS—Center, indecision on quarterback. RATING—Fair.

DEFENSE	Name	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Exp.	School	Comment
E	Wardlow, Duane	215	6-4	25	2	Washington	Definitely need assistance because Wardlow lacks classic size. Ripe for rookies Lundy and Smith to take over. RATING—Fair
	Miller, Paul	221	6-2	26	4	LSU	
	Lundy, Lamar	225	6-6	22	1	Purdue	
	Smith, Billy Ray	225	6-4	22	1	Arkansas	
T	McFadin, Bud	250	6-3	29	6	Texas	If McFadin's okay, plenty solid because Hauser, though small, has agility to handle anyone in game. RATING—Very good
	Hauser, Art	230	6-0	28	4	Xavier	
	Fuller, Frank	241	6-4	28	4	Kentucky	
	Panfil, Ken	255	6-6	26	2	Purdue	
M	Richter, Les	243	6-3	26	4	California	Richter has clippings but faulted by some. RATING—Fair
	Fournet, Sid	238	6-0	25	3	LSU	
LB	Pitts, Hugh	220	6-2	23	2	TCU	Top combo in Pitts and Morris, who have it all. Pardee useful rookie. RATING—Very good
	Morris, Larry	212	6-2	23	3	Ga. Tech	
	Pardee, Jack	202	6-2	21	1	Texas A&M	
H	Whittenton, Jesse	182	6-0	23	2	Texas West.	Whittenton, Shiver sustaining performers but never set league on fire. May need Derby infusion of speed. RATING—Poor
	Shiver, Ray	189	6-0	25	2	Miami (Fla.)	
	Derby, Dean	190	5-11	22	1	Washington	
	Taylor, Corky	192	5-10	23	2	Kansas	
S	Sherman, Will	198	6-2	29	4	St. Mary's	Sherman an excellent defender, Burroughs has desire but lacks speed, so look for Shofner to step in. RATING—Good
	Burroughs, Don	173	6-4	26	3	Colo. A&M	
	Shofner, Del	190	6-3	22	1	Baylor	
	Castete, Jesse	180	5-11	23	2	McNeese St.	

PLAYER LOSSES—None. STRENGTH—Linebackers, strong and agile; tackles. WEAKNESS—Lack of speed in secondary, mediocre ends. RATING—Fair.

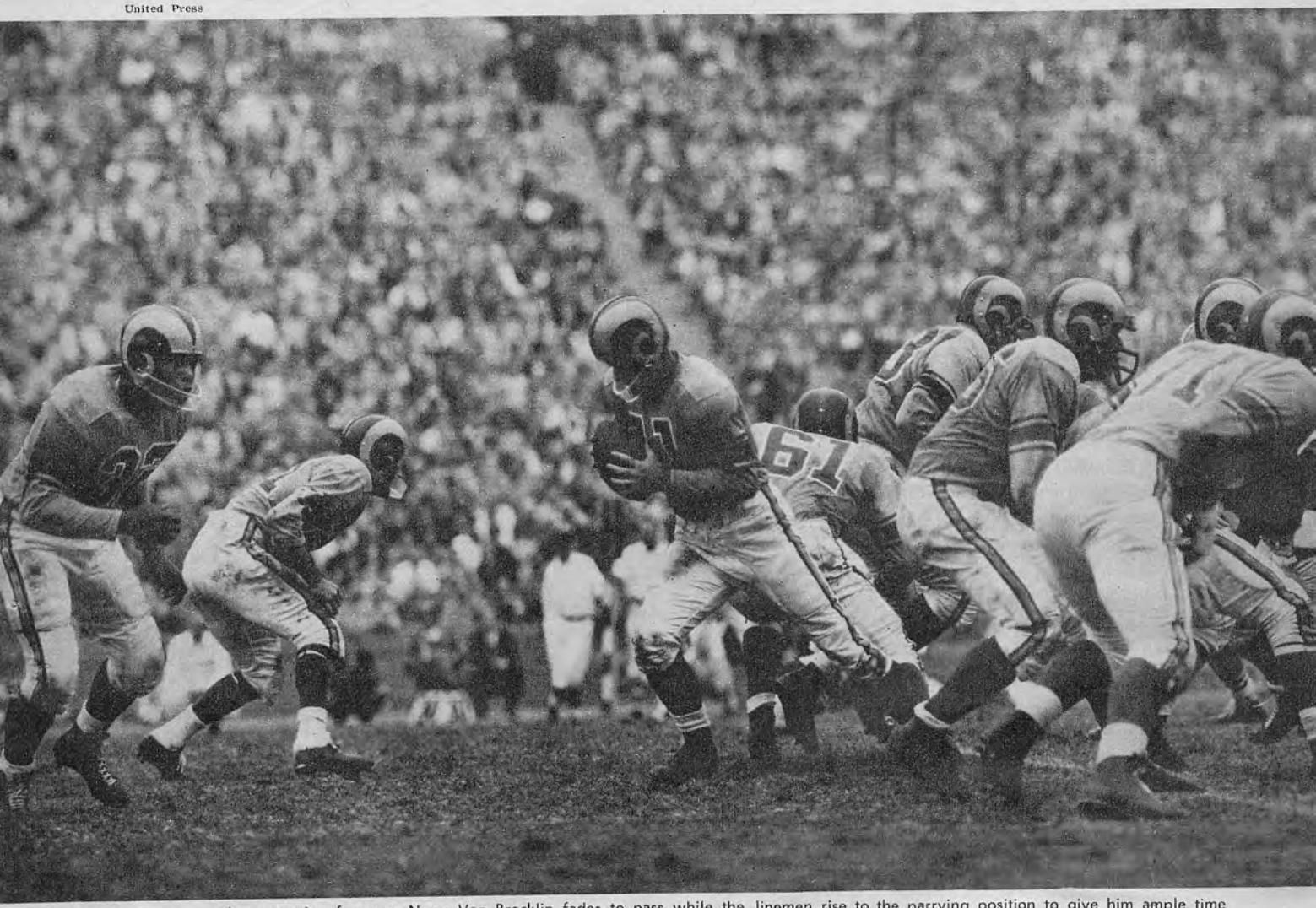
TO a coach, it's always the future that counts —as long as he still has his job. This past winter, however, Sid Gillman must have bopped the side of his head on more than one occasion and wondered, "What was it with those Rams? What'd I do?"

While Detroit bounced from last in 1955 to the Western division title a year ago, Los Angeles went from the Western crown to last place. So, in two years as a pro coach, Gillman has experienced the best and the worst. He's had rabid spectators shouting, "Viva, Gillman!" but he remembers the recent boos better.

Around the league, Gillman is known to prefer young, eager fellows on his team. From his top '55 group, more than one-third of the personnel was lopped off, through trades or retirement. Fellows like Andy Robustelli, Ed Hughes, Bobby Cross, Woodley Lewis and Gene Lipscomb went to other clubs and proved solid. The Rams shoved the inordinately large total of 10 rookies into their lineup, and it didn't work out. Maybe he's learned his lesson. The Rams expected 36 veterans back in camp this year, and only three or four fledgelings from a fine draft crop are being counted on for immediate help.

Gillman was also under fire for his handling of the quarterbacks. You don't need to do a selling job on Norm Van Brocklin to the other teams in the league. He's been known for nine seasons as the most accurate long thrower

United Press



The protection forms as Norm Van Brocklin fades to pass while the linemen rise to the parrying position to give him ample time

Rookie: Jon Arnett
The Rams are supposed to have the best rookie crop in the NFL. Arnett, the speed-burning USC hurdler, is the leader. He has the equipment and desire to be top new man in the league. He runs with a remarkable sense of balance and change of pace

Pros' Pro: Art Hauser
Hauser belies the notion that only the jumbo-sized can play defensive tackle in the pros. The Xavier grad isn't exactly a midget at 230, and while he gives away a minimum of 10 pounds to every man he's faced since 1954, he has mobility

in football and as a vivid field general. The Rams started briefly with him in '56, sidetracked him for young Billy Wade and went back to Van only when newspaper criticism and the results put the heat on for a change. Interestingly, the Rams showed a tremendous closing wallop, winning their last two while scoring 80 points.

It would be safe to say that Van will be the quarterback on first call this season, with Wade and the ever-promising Rudy Bukich (who never plays) on deck.

If support shows up for Tank Younger at fullback, the Ram backfield won't be bad at all. The Tank is as potent as ever in short spurts. Ron Waller, his bad leg healed, is a slashing runner at halfback. The Rams started Tom Wilson, a kid who never went to college, in the same position last autumn. He was a sensation, setting a NFL record of 223 yards gained in one game. He has the size (197 pounds) to make the Rams consider him as a fullback, too. He can be spared at half because arriving as a pro is Jon Arnett, the USC hurdler with amazing balance. If he doesn't make it as a pro, cancel all scout reports.

The pass-catching corps is stable. Bob Boyd, long hailed as the fastest man in football (although at 29, that's open to dispute), is the slot man again. Elroy Hirsch, the league elder with 12 pro seasons to his credit, still deserves to be called Crazy Legs at an antiquated 34. Insuring their spryness are Bob Carey, a Michigan State giant who may finally shake his injury jinx, and Ron Miller, Walt Disney's precocious son-in-law.

The tackles are the same, Bob Fry and Glenn Holtzman, with the threat of change provided by George Strugar, a huge (6-5) rookie from Washington who's supposed to have all the goods. Guards are set, too. They are Duane Putnam and John Hock, top-caliber blockers. Putnam is frequently called the best running guard in football.

Only center remains a problem because John Morrow went into service. Dick Daugherty is a trifle small for the position, and Bob Griffin, a linebacker previously, is a big hope.

The entire defensive setup can stand a renovation. It was porous enough in two games to yield 42 points to Green Bay and 56 to Baltimore, neither considered scoring powerhouses. The recasting may start with the ends. Duane Wardlow and Paul Miller are the incumbents, but hold their posts none too securely. In size, at least, they are overshadowed by Lamar Lundy and Billy Ray Smith, highly rated rookies. Tackles Bud McFadin and Art Hauser are real pros, but the availability of McFadin is clouded by an off-season

shooting fracas. Frank Fuller, out a season with a broken leg, could be used.

Les Richter, the only man ever worth 10 players (in a swap with the defunct Dallas Texans) has had three seasons to temper his eagerness with stability as a middle linebacker. He made the Pro Bowl squad and has his adherents. Sid Fournet, the other middle guard possibility, has been just a mediocre pro after a hot college career.

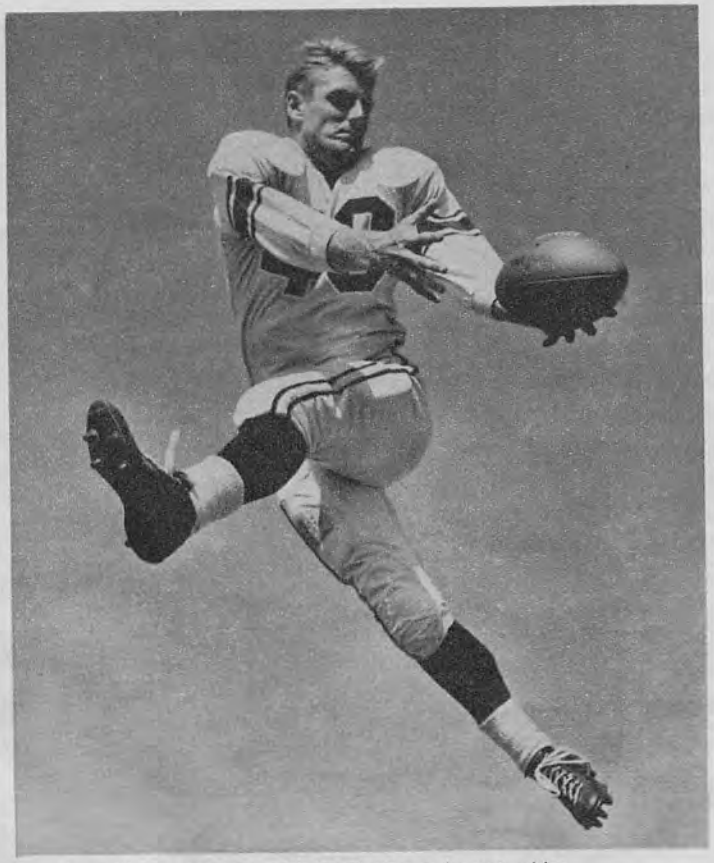
A couple of collegians who lived up to their reputations, however, are Larry Morris of Georgia Tech and Hugh Pitts of TCU. They've become a top tandem of outside linebackers—big, agile, keen play analysts reflecting their All-American status. Coming from the rookie ranks to join them is Jack Pardee, a latter-day John Kimbrough from Texas A and M. Either Pardee or Morris would be useful, too, as an offensive fullback.

Gillman wishes the Rams were as well fixed deeper in the defense. A noticeable lack of speed hurt them badly last fall. Only Will Sherman at one safety spot has the desired quickness of a deep defender, and it has brought him recognition as a league standout.

Don Burroughs, his running mate for a couple of campaigns, is a marvel considering the scanty 173 pounds that hang on a 6-4 frame, but his competitive zest doesn't help him keep pace with the fast ends of the NFL. Jesse Whittenton and Ray Shiver, prospective wings, have just average quickness.

To cure this failing, the Rams waded into the draft for Del Shofner of Baylor and Dean Derby of Washington, a pair with speed, if nothing else. Shofner, a first-draft choice, is modeled for defensive duties. He's a rangy 6-3, so no towering end will scoop over his shoulder to take away passes. He was a fine college pass receiver, which means he has the sure hands needed to defend against them.

One new kid like this could make all the difference in changing a loser to a winner.



Crazy Legs Hirsch seems to catch 'em better as he gets older

John Hock . . . terrific charge

Norm Van Brocklin . . . back on beam

Tank Younger . . . rumbling along

highlights of 1956

Giants' manhandling of Bears in championship finale climaxed spectacular year that bowed in on a wild display of electronics. Chief rhubarb was the controversial concussion suffered by Bobby Layne

PROFESSIONAL football ended for 1956 when the New York Giants cooled off the Chicago Bears, 47-7, on an already glacial gridiron. Fifty-six thousand fans could testify to the intensity of the cold, and a squad load of Bears to the intensity of the Giants' mauling.

It was quite a season: Electronic signal calling wound up in the dustbin of history, pro teams returned to a ground attack, roughness in play created another rhubarb, and NFL owners faced a players' organization.

The Supreme Court proclaimed professional football big business, and more than two and a half million spectators attending 72 league games proclaimed it big box office. More than 90,000 crowded a pre-season game.

For the first time, there was a synchronized national TV program, and sacrosanct college areas felt the impact. The Houston *Press* carried squad rosters and numbers of four different pro teams each week to prepare for the two games beamed into the Texas city each Sunday. Sports editor Blackie Sherrod of Fort Worth drove 180 miles after covering

Consolidated Feature Service

a college game so that he could be home in time to catch a pro contest.

Professional football started the 1956 season as a sport and finished as big business, thanks to a Supreme Court decision. But what happened between the chalk lines still carried the greatest import.

THE FIELD OF PLAY

In their first six years in the National Football League, starting in 1950, the Cleveland Browns had never failed to win the Eastern Conference championship. In that same period they were never without Otto Graham at quarterback. He retired, and in 1956 the difference was apparent. The Browns were out of the running in the first month of play. The Washington Redskins, second in 1955, might have come up but they were unnerved by a pre-season accident to Vic Janowicz, their heavy-duty halfback, and lost their first three games. They rallied to make a strong run in mid-season, but the disastrous start proved too much to overcome at season's end.

Janowicz was a passenger in a car which crashed on a Los Angeles boulevard in the early morning hours after an exhibition victory in August. The resultant head injuries knocked him out for the season and have ended his football career. George Marshall, the flamboyant owner of the Redskins, dropped Janowicz from the payroll and disclaimed responsibility because the accident happened off the field—steps that brought the club bad publicity.

Marshall's action was counterbalanced by the Redskin players and coaches, with each chipping in $10 a week throughout the season to help Janowicz. The chasm between front office and team didn't help morale.

While the Browns and Skins floundered, a new pair of contenders emerged in the East. The Chicago Cardinals, with a brilliant array of backs emphasizing a widely split-T that surprised their opponents, ripped through their first four games undefeated. With them

Key to Giants' win was the emergence of Mel Triplett as a top fullback. Eagles' Rocky Ryan (45) and Jess Richardson (72) agree

The ability of the Giants' Frank Gifford to maneuver into the clear was the sharpest weapon of the pro grid champs. It made him the league's No. 1 man. Eagles' Tom Brookshier (40) is a helpless spectator

raced the New York Giants, another strong ground team. They met in the crucial game that ultimately decided the Eastern race just after the midway mark, with both boasting 5-1 records and the division lead at stake.

A crowd of 62,410—largest in Giant history —invaded their new 1956 home site, Yankee Stadium, to see the Giants rout the Chicago visitors, 23-10. Gifford, with the running and pass-receiving form that was to make him the NFL's top performer of the year, bolted for 68 yards from scrimmage and 122 yards on six interceptions to lead the attack.

The impetus carried the New Yorkers to the Eastern crown. The Cards went downhill. Their quarterback, Lamar McHan, became a problem child, disciplined for skipping practice, suspended for a short time, disheartened and threatening to quit. His Cardinal mates had to give him pep talks in the huddle to keep his confidence up. The coup de grace was administered by their crosstown rivals, the Bears, in the next to the last game. Two long touchdown runs by Ollie Matson, their great breakaway back, were nullified by penalties, and Night Train Lane was nailed just short of the tying touchdown on the last play of the game. It ended 10-3.

The Giants a couple of weeks earlier had felt the same sting of bad luck from the Bears, but with less disastrous results. In their first visit to New York in seven years, or since the reorganization of the NFL after the collapse of the All-America Conference, the mighty Bears were played off their feet by the Giants. They meekly trailed 17-3 with seven minutes to play. All afternoon, their vaunted power game was to net a mere 12 yards on the ground. But out on one flank they had a wraithlike end, Harlon Hill, who merits every superlative he gets. At 8:09 of the last period, he completed a stupendous 79-yard pass play for a touchdown. At 13:55 he juggled a 56-yard throw three times and finally clutched it in the end zone.

The resultant 17-17 tie won the Western Conference championship for the Bears, because it gave them the decisive half-game

The Steelers' Lowell Perry (41) virtually had rookie-of-the-year honors wrapped up with flashy punt returns and pass catching until racked up in mid-year. This is the end of a 46-yard canter

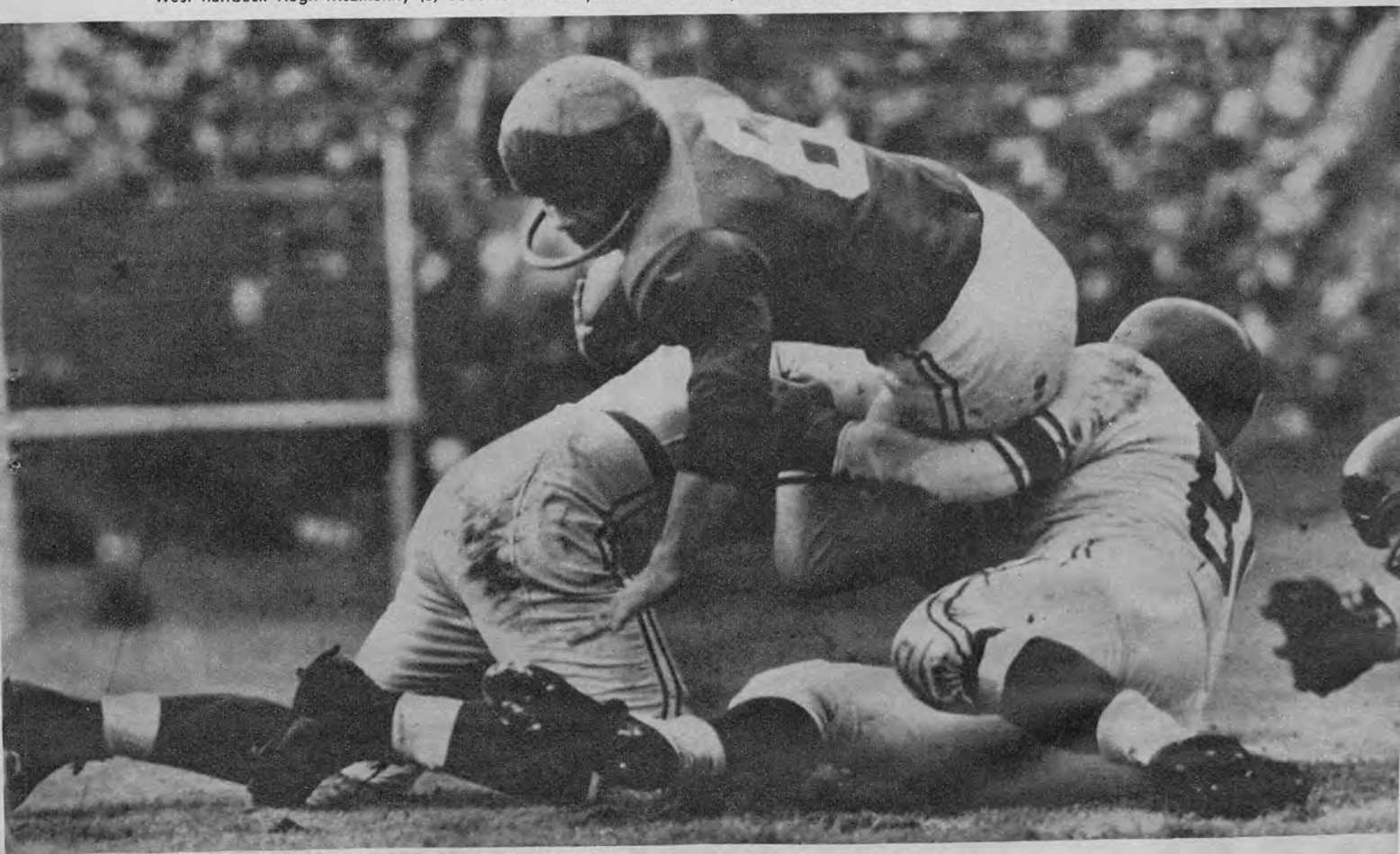
The pros' insistence on gang tackling is vividly demonstrated by Jim Katcavage (82) and Gene Filipski (40) as they jar loose the helmet of Steeler end Lowell Perry, serenely buried

bulge over the Detroit Lions at the finish.

Until their final game of the regular season, the Lions had been the Cinderella team of 1956, and Bobby Layne, their veteran quarterback, was a strong candidate for player-of-the-year honors. Just 12 months earlier they had sunk to the basement of the Western division, and Layne was written off as a has-been with a worn-out passing arm. The Detroit club soared off to a string of six straight victories to start the '56 campaign before the Washington Redskins surprised them, 18-17, on a Sam Baker field goal. Layne, passing long and short, and picking apart defenses with the signal experience of 10 years, was the indispensable man. A second upset, by the Packers on Thanksgiving Day, was forgotten as the Lions roared into a crucial game with the Bears December 1 and routed them, 42-10, with a barrage of long touchdown plays in the second half. It enabled them to grab the Western division lead.

The Bears, playing their first season with a man other than George Halas as their head coach, had faltered in the season opener against the Baltimore Colts, then righted themselves in an awesome display of offensive football. The only other game they lost in

West halfback Hugh McElhenny (6) dove to the one-yard line to set up a touchdown as his team topped the East, 19-10, in the Pro Bowl



Give Ollie Matson (33) running room and the Card halfback goes off on a long-distance tear as he cuts loose for a 20-yard jaunt here against the Giants, with Emlen Tunnell (45) in chief pursuit

regular play was that 42-10 reversal by the Lions. Rick Casares, their fullback, provided tremendous punch up the middle as he rolled within 21 yards of Steve Van Buren's all-time National Football League ground-gaining record for one season. When defenses bunched to stop him, there was the elusive Hill out on the wing to haul in long passes from Ed Brown. For the first seven games they also sprang on the league a scatback of Buddy Young proportions, one Perry Jeter from little Cal Poly. He tore off long runs on punt and kick returns until a broken ankle in the eighth game sidelined him for the season.

The Los Angeles Rams, defending their 1955 laurels, ran into a horrible losing streak of five straight, suffered through quarterback fluctuations and coaching indecisiveness. They collapsed into a cellar tie with the erratic Green Bay Packers. The Colts and the Forty-Niners, too, were out of the running early in the season.

So this was the setup for the game December 16 which would decide the Western division title: the Lions, in first with a 9-2 mark, vs. the Bears, only half a game behind at 8-2-1 (thanks to Hill's tie-making grab against the Giants).

The Bears jumped off to a 3-0 lead on George Blanda's field goal. Detroit, penned in the first quarter, was beginning to come out of the hole in the second when Bobby Layne drifted back as if to pass, but slipped the ball to halfback Gene Gedman. Ed Meadows, the Bears defensive end crashing in from the left, had eyes only for Layne. He barreled into the unsuspecting quarterback and bore him to the ground. Layne fell heavily on his head, and the resultant brain concussion sent him directly to the hospital. With him went the Lion season. Harry Gilmer, the aging reserve pitcher, tossed the Lions into the lead temporarily halfway through the period, but Casares burst through for a 68-yard canter barely a minute later. The Bears led the rest of the way. The Layne-less Lions couldn't match them and were decisively beaten, 38-21, as the game ended in a full-scale riot down on the field. The TV cameras, beaming the scene nationally, painstakingly

Johnny Olszewski (36) was the vital fullback cog in the strong Cardinal ground attack, gaining 10 here before Chuck Drazenovich of the Skins closed in

United Press

United Press

avoided the brawl on standing orders from Commissioner Bell. The TV network was censured in the press for the curtailed report.

In the wake of Layne's injury the old charges of rough and dirty football were aired again, but meanwhile there was still a championship game to be played between the Bears and the Giants, division winners.

It was no contest. The day came up a frigid 10 degrees in New York, with the Yankee Stadium sold out, but only 56,836 ticket-holders showed up. The other 10,000 either went to Philadelphia for TV (the game was blacked out locally) or settled down with the Sunday paper. Down on the frozen turf both teams were togged out in sneakers.

The Giants won the toss, and everything else. Their Gene Filipski took the opening kickoff and bolted down the west sideline for 53 yards, almost shaking loose for the distance. Two minutes later the home town had its first touchdown. It was set up on a crucial third-down pass from Don Heinrich to Frank Gifford which netted them a first down. From the 17, fullback Mel Triplett shot up the middle, trampled over a field official and carried three Bears into the end zone.

Fumbles were recovered, punts were blocked; by half time the score had mounted to 34-7. Hank Bauer flew all the way in from Kansas City to watch the game, and between halves went to the Stadium Club across the street to thaw out. So did most of the other hardy souls as the Giants kept the clamps on the demoralized Bears, added a couple more touchdowns for good measure and wound up with a smashing 47-7 victory.

The players split up a record pot which netted each of the winners $3,779.19. The Bears were consoled with shares of $2,485.16.

Since Otto Graham a couple of years ago had the temerity to charge that some players

One bright spot in a dismal Philadelphia season was the alert end play of Tom Scott (82), recovering a loose ball

United Press

The 1956 season had the normal share of rough stuff and dirty football charges, enlivened at one point by a Cardinal-Bear fracas as Harlon Hill (left, 87) squares off with Cards' Pat Summerall. On right, Fred Williams (75) aims a kick

in the National Football League intentionally roughed up opponents, the problem of dirty football among the pros has become as perennial as taxation.

The notion that these gladiators slugged each other with malice aforethought wasn't unique with Graham. It must have occurred first to the fans who shelled out to see professional football in its embryonic phase 30 years ago, in expectation of seeing some blood spilled. The same anticipation is part of the appeal of bullfighting and auto racing.

Of late, however, it's become fashionable to point up blackjacking on the gridiron as an evil and a threat to the game of football. Each season has its incidents, and 1956 was a lulu, with the peak being reached the afternoon in December when the Bears' Meadows kayoed the Lions' Layne.

Besides sending Bobby to the hospital, it hurt the Lions vitally. They lost the title. President Ed Anderson called for the NFL to ban Meadows from play. Coach Buddy Parker called the Bears' end a "hatchet man" and threatened to quit as head man of the Lions because he was so upset over the rougher aspects of the game.

Meadows insisted he couldn't see if Layne still had the ball when he slammed into him and was perfectly within his right to tackle him—"and I always try to tackle hard."

From his hospital bed, Layne said, "I never

saw anything, heard anything. The lights just went out."

Movies of the play were inconclusive. In another month the furore was forgotten.

Forgotten, too, were such flareups as a gang fight between the same Bears and the rival Cardinals as well as a Brown-Eagles fist slinging joust in early December, with fans getting in on the act by pelting officials with a barrage of snowballs. Good clean fun.

A veteran NFL linebacker summed it up when he said: "Football is basically a contact game. With violent contact you take your chances. If I have to clip a guy once in a while to keep him from getting by me—well, that's it. He's not going to keep me from making a living."

MAN AGAINST SCIENCE

Electronics made an abortive appearance on the football scene in 1956. Paul Brown, who runs to automation quarterbacks, had long used a shuttle system of guards to relay his plays from the bench to the field. To effect a direct relay, Brown appealed to an electronics manufacturer who installed capsule receiving sets in the quarterbacks' helmets.

The Browns' use of short-wave radio was immediately picked up by other teams, among them the Chicago Cardinals. In the season opener Coach Ray Richards fed his defensive team electronic signals to counteract the Browns' messages to his quarterbacks, and the Cleveland club was dumped, 9-7.

When the Giants got around to playing the Browns, they installed an interceptor on the bench and sat Gene Filipski next to it. Filipski, who had spent the training-camp period with Cleveland, decoded the messages to the Brown signal callers and fed the word to Giant defenders. Ironically, the New York set was able to pick up the messages, but on the field, Brown quarterback George Ratterman got only a buzz in his helmet. Cleveland's lack of success didn't discourage imitators. Every team in the league was soon investing in equipment, not to lag in the electronics race. Pittsburgh had special wiring installed in the turf of Forbes Field.

In practice sessions, quarterback Ted Mar-

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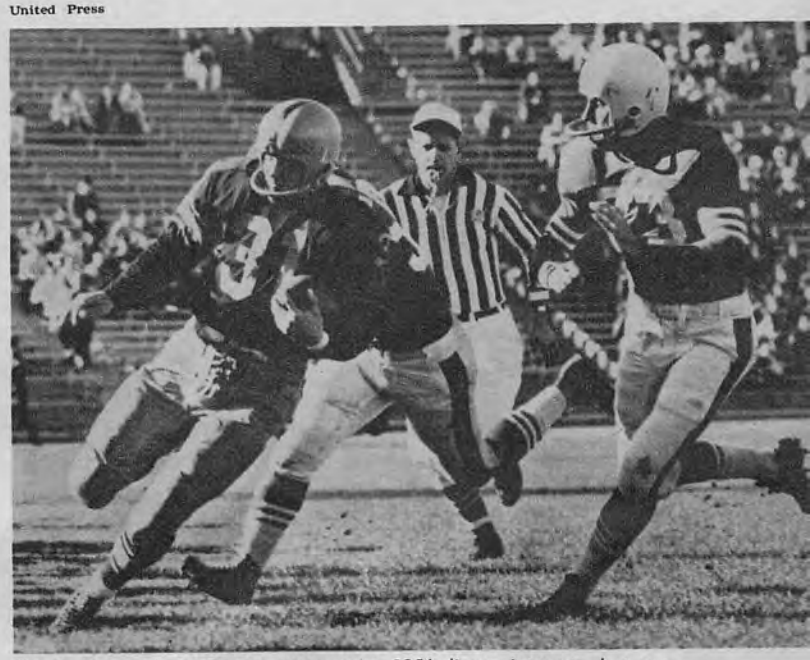


The Packers and the Browns were major 1956 disappointments, but even they had their high spots. For the Packers it was Fred Cone, right, scrambling into the Forty-Niner end zone. Browns showed off Pete Brewster's catching

chibroda paced off various areas of the gridiron to test reception while assistant coach Chuck Cherundolo called plays from the press box on high.

After a while, Cherundolo yelled down, "You getting anything?"

"Yeah," chirped Marchibroda, "I'm picking up Italy, and they're asking how their little boy Cherundolo is doing."

Before the FCC was called in to mediate wave-length disputes and jammings, the league expressed official disapproval of the electronics movement and the teams sighed with relief. They were glad to discard the gadgets. At the January league meeting they were banned permanently.

IN UNION THERE IS . . .

Of more import to professional football than trick gadgets was the abrupt rise of the players' association.

In 1954, members of the Cleveland Browns approached Creighton Miller, a former Notre Dame halfback, to assist them in the formation of a players' guild. Miller, a Cleveland lawyer who had been instrumental in securing Paul Brown to coach the new local entry in professional football in 1946, was too busy to take on the job.

Early in the 1956 season, the same Browns again approached the young attorney, who agreed to represent the fledgling association. On November 2, a memorandum was sent to each team in the NFL, setting forth the organization's aims and asking for support. Within 10 days, the Baltimore, Detroit, New York and Green Bay teams had signed up 100 percent. By the middle of December, 370 of the slightly more than 400 elegible players were enrolled in the NFL Players association. Only the Chicago Bears remained out.

Player representatives were appointed as follows: Bill Pellington, Baltimore Colts; Billy Howton, Green Bay Packers; Jack Jennings, Chicago Cardinals; Don Colo, Cleveland Browns; Norb Hecker, Washington Redskins; Adrian Burk, Philadelphia Eagles; Joe Schmidt, Detroit Lions; Lynn Chandnois, Pittsburgh Steelers, and Gordon Soltau, San Francisco Forty-Niners.

These representatives met for the first time in New York in late December and outlined five major points: 1) recognition by the league owners of their association; 2) insertion of a clause in players' contracts to protect salaries in the event of injury sustained in training, practice or games; 3) minimum salary of $5,000; 4) training camp expenses weekly; and 5) a retirement fund to induce men to stay in the game longer.

Miller, Kyle Rote and Van Brocklin met with Commissioner Bert Bell in late January, prior to the regular league meeting in Philadelphia, and endorsed the option clause and the player draft. The league owners, however, rejected recognition of the association. Several of them felt that the benefits they, individually, granted the players made such an association unnecessary.

The Detroit Lions, for instance, have a player liaison committee that meets regularly to discuss complaints with General Manager Nick Kerbawy.

"However," says Kerbawy, "if the players feel an association is necessary to equalize the benefits among the various teams of the league, then, of course, we will have no objections."

The players have asked the Commissioner and the owners to reconsider their rejection. The Supreme Court decision in the Radovich case—that professional football was engaged in interstate commerce and thus subject to the anti-trust laws—conceivably could lead to similar suits.

"The players' association," asserts Miller, "can control, in most instances, any further lawsuits and we want to work with the owners for the best interest of football.

"Our next move will be dictated by their action or inaction."

There was strong talk that, as an extreme measure, the players might boycott exhibitions. Last summer, the Los Angeles Rams threatened for a time to strike if they weren't paid for exhibitions. Scripps-Howard columnist Joe Williams revealed that the take for 33 pre-season games in 1956, after taxes, was a lucrative $2 million.

If these are part of the growing pains of pro football, the figures, at least, are pleasant.

As professional football becomes a more

itted Press

Former All-American Creighton Miller, foreground, provides legal counsel at NFL Players Association's first meeting. Player representatives pushed hard for recognition, but team owners weren't budging

profitable endeavor, from both the club and the player standpoint, turnover in personnel decreases. The established stars hang on a season or two longer than they used to.

KEEPING UP WITH THE STARS

Dante Lavelli, the great end of the Cleveland Browns and a club original in 1946, announced his retirement. The Steelers' Elbie Nickel, center Jack Simmons of the Cards, defensive back Rex Berry of the Forty-Niners, linebacker Deral Teteak of the Packers, quarterbacks Bobby Thomason and Adrian Burk of the Eagles and quarterback George Ratterman of the Browns also were prominent veterans who called it quits. Teetering were Frank Gatski, another original Brown, and Redskin guard Dick Stanfel.

At the same time, 1956 introduced an illustrious set of rookies. Sam Huff came out of West Virginia to nail down the vital middle guard spot on the world champion Giants. Lenny Moore of the Colts and Perry Jeter of the Bears electrified the league with their open-field elusiveness. J. C. Caroline made it with the Bears first as a defensive back and shifted over to offense in an emergency without losing stride. They expect him to be an all-pro. The Browns advanced Preston Carpenter, an erstwhile blocking back at Arkansas who led Cleveland in rushing.

Experience had its day, too. In the annual College All-Star game at Chicago, the Cleveland Browns, as the reigning champions of football, atoned amply for their 30-27 debacle in the 1955 version of the same contest. They walloped the '56 All-Stars, 31-3, in a lackluster, one-sided game.

After the season ended, the all-pro selections were made. Two years ago, NEA Service inaugurated a selection method in which every man in the league is polled on his choice for the All-Players All-Pro team.

Most of these men were on the turf of the Los Angeles Coliseum for the seventh annual Pro Bowl game of the Los Angeles Publishers' association in mid-January. The booming field goals of Bert Rechichar of the Colts were the margin in a 19-10 victory for the Western Conference Stars and a 4-3 edge for the West in the series. Rechichar booted four through the uprights, one a phenomenal 25 yards, and was voted the game's outstanding player. Ernie Stautner of the Steelers, an Eastern defensive standout at tackle, was named the outstanding lineman.

1956 statistics

1956 PUNTING

Best punting average (one season):
48.7 Sammy Baugh, Washington (30 punts), 1942.

	Stdg.	No.	Ave. Dist.	Lg.	No. Blk.
†*Van Brocklin, L. A.	1	48	*43.1	*72	0
Deschaine, G. B.	2	62	42.7	57	0
Baker, Wash.	3	59	42.5	56	0
Chandler, N. Y.	4	59	41.9	63	0
Burk, Phila.	5	*68	41.8	62	1
Morrison, Cleve.	6	38	41.1	70	0
Lary, Det.	7	42	40.4	61	0
Glatz, Pitts.	8	25	39.4	60	0
Brown, Bears	9	42	39.1	53	1
Baldacci, Pitts.	10	26	38.8	64	0

1956 PUNT RETURNS

	Stdg.	No.	Yds. Ret.	Ave.	Long Ret.	Td.
*Konz, Cleve.	1	13	187	*14.4	t65	1
Bernardi, Cards.	2	18	217	12.1	*t95	1
Keller, Phila.	3	15	146	9.7	40	0
Taseff, Balto.	4	*27	*233	8.6	t90	1
Sherman, L. A.	5	12	100	8.3	t76	1
Carmichael, G. B.	6	21	165	7.9	22	0
Cassady, Det.	7	13	83	6.4	34	0
Arenas, S. F.	8	19	117	6.2	t67	1
Paul, Cleve.	9	17	103	6.1	17	0
Ford, Pitts.	10	25	145	5.8	59	0

1956 BALL CARRYING

Most yards gained (one season):
1,146 Steve Van Buren, Philadelphia, 1949.

	Atts.	Yds. G.	Lg. G.	Ave.	Tds.
*Casares, Bears	*234	*1126	t68	4.8	*12
Matson, Cards	192	924	t79	4.8	5
McElhenny, S. F.	185	916	*t86	5.0	8
†Ameche, Balto.	178	858	43	4.8	8
Gifford, N. Y.	159	819	69	5.2	5
Carpenter, Cleve.	188	756	30	4.0	0
Webster, N. Y.	178	694	t34	3.9	7
Moore, Balto.	86	649	t79	*7.5	8
Olszewski, Cards	157	598	34	3.8	2
Elter, Wash.	145	544	48	3.8	2

1956 PASS RECEIVING

Most passes caught (one season):
84 Tom Fears, Los Angeles, 1950.

	No. Rec.	Yds. Gain	Ave. Gain	Lg. G.	Tds.
*Wilson, S. F.	*60	889	14.8	t77	5
Howton, G. B.	55	*1188	21.6	t66	*12
Gifford, N. Y.	51	603	11.8	48	4
Hill, Bears	47	1128	*24.0	*t79	11
Mutscheller, Balto.	44	715	16.3	t53	6
Middleton, Det.	39	606	15.5	t56	5
Walston, Phila.	39	590	15.1	t51	3
Carson, Wash.	39	504	12.9	t26	3
Berry, Balto.	37	601	16.2	54	2
Clarke, L. A.	36	650	18.1	t60	4

1956 KICKOFF RETURNS

	Stdg.	No.	Yds. Ret.	Ave.	Lg. Ret.	Td.
*Wilson, L. A.	1	15	477	*31.8	t103	1
Arenas, S. F.	2	27	801	29.7	96	1
†Carmichael, G. B.	3	*33	*927	28.1	*tr106	1
Matson, Cards	4	13	362	27.8	t105	1
Bingham, Bears	5	17	444	26.1	t100	1
Losch, G. B.	6	15	390	26.0	51	0
Carpenter, Cleve.	7	15	381	25.4	42	0
Riley, Phila.	8	15	381	25.4	59	0
Cassady, Det.	9	16	382	23.9	42	0
Vessels, Balto.	10	16	379	23.7	42	0

1956 INTERCEPTIONS

Most passes intercepted (one season):
14 Dick Lane, Los Angeles, 1952 (298 yards)

	No.	Yds. Ret.	Tds.	Lg. Ret.	Ave. Ret.
*Crow, Cards	*11	170	0	42	15.5
Lary, Det.	8	182	1	t73	22.8
Christiansen, Det.	8	109	0	33	13.6
Hecker, Wash.	8	26	0	14	3.3
Dillon, G. B.	7	*244	1	45	34.9
Lane, Cards	7	206	1	t66	29.4
Paul, Cleve.	7	190	1	42	27.1
David, Det.	7	4	0	3	0.6
Caroline, Bears	6	182	*2	t59	30.3
Butler, Pitts.	6	113	0	34	18.8

1956 FORWARD PASSING

Best passing efficiency (one season):
70.3% Sammy Baugh, Washington (128 completions in 182 attempts), 1945

	Stdg.	No. Att.	No. Com.	Pct. Com.	Yds. Gain	Td. P.	Long Gain	No. Int.	Pct. Int.	Ave. Gain Yds.
*Brown, Bears	1	168	96	*57.1	1667	11	t70	12	7.1	*9.92
Wade, L. A.	2	178	91	51.1	1461	10	t76	13	7.3	8.21
Layne, Detroit	3	244	129	52.9	1909	9	70	17	7.0	7.82
VanBrocklin, L. A.	4	124	68	54.8	966	7	t58	12	9.7	7.79
McHan, Cards	5	152	72	47.4	1159	10	75	8	5.3	7.63
Unitas, Baltimore	6	198	110	55.6	1498	9	54	10	5.1	7.57
Tittle, S. F.	7	218	124	56.9	1644	7	t77	12	5.5	1.53
Rote, Green Bay	8	*308	*146	47.4	*2203	*18	t66	15	*4.9	7.15
Thomason, Phila.	9	164	82	50.0	1119	4	52	21	12.8	6.82
Conerly, New York	10	174	90	51.7	1143	10	48	*7	4.0	6.57

1956 SCORING

Most points (one season):
138 Don Hutson, Green Bay, 1942

	Td. R.	Td. P.	Tot. Tds.	XPts.	XPM	FG	FGA	Safety	Tot. Pts.
*Layne Detroit	5	0	5	33	0	12	15	0	*99
Casares, Bears	*12	2	*14	0	0	0	0	0	84
Blanda, Bears	0	0	0	*45	2	12	*28	0	81
Cone, Green Bay	2	2	4	33	2	5	8	0	72
Howton, Green Bay	0	*12	12	0	0	0	0	0	72
Soltau, San Francisco	0	1	1	26	2	13	20	0	71
Baker, Washington	0	0	0	16	*3	*17	25	0	67
Hill, Bears	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	66
Rote, Green Bays	11	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	66
Gifford, New York	5	4	9	8	1	1	2	0	65

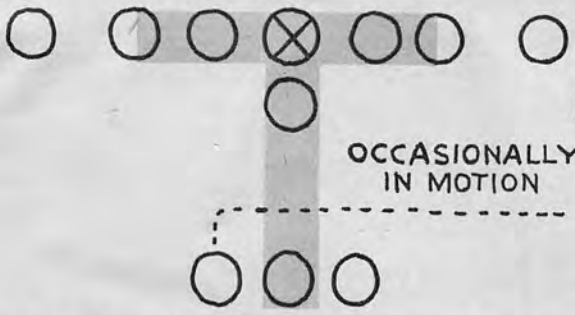
the national football league 1957 schedule

SUNDAY, SEPT 29	Chi. Bears at Green Bay	1:05
	Chi. Cards at San Fran.	1:35
	Detroit at Baltimore	2:05
	New York at Cleveland	2:05
	Phila. at Los Angeles	1:35
	Washington at Pittsburgh	2:05
SATURDAY, OCT. 5	Chi. Bears at Baltimore	8:35
	Cleveland at Pittsburgh	8:05
	New York at Philadelphia	8:05
SUNDAY, OCT. 6	Detroit at Green Bay	1:05
	Los Angeles at San Fran.	1:35
	Washington at Chi. Cards	1:05
SUNDAY, OCT. 13	Balt. vs Green Bay at Mil.	1:05
	Chi. Cards at Pittsburgh	2:05
	Los Angeles at Detroit	1:35
	New York at Washington	2:05
	Philadelphia at Cleveland	2:05
	San Fran. at Chi. Bears	1:05
SUNDAY, OCT. 20	Baltimore at Detroit	1:35
	Chi. Cards at Washington	2:05
	Cleveland at Philadelphia	2:05
	Los Angeles at Chi. Bears	1:05
	Pittsburgh at New York	2:05
	S. F. vs Green Bay at Mil.	1:05
SUNDAY, OCT. 27	Chi. Bears at San Fran.	1:35
	Cleveland at Chi. Cards	1:05
	Detroit at Los Angeles	1:35
	Green Bay at Baltimore	2:05
	Philadelphia at Pittsburgh	2:05
	Washington at New York	2:05
SUNDAY, NOV. 3	Chi. Bears at Los Angeles	1:35
	Detroit at San Francisco	1:35
	New York at Green Bay	1:05
	Philadelphia at Chi. Cards	1:05
	Pittsburgh at Baltimore	2:05
	Washington at Cleveland	2:05
SUNDAY, NOV. 10	Baltimore at Washington	2:05
	Chi. Cards at New York	2:05
	Detroit at Philadelphia	2:05
	Green Bay at Chi. Bears	1:05
	Pittsburgh at Cleveland	2:05
	San Fran. at Los Angeles	1:35
SUNDAY, NOV. 17	Baltimore at Chi. Bears	1:05
	Cleveland at Washington	2:05
	L.A. vs. Green Bay at Mil.	1:05
	Philadelphia at New York	2:05
	San Francisco at Detroit	1:35
SUNDAY, NOV. 24	Chi. Bears at Detroit	1:35
	Green Bay at Pittsburgh	2:05
	Los Angeles at Cleveland	2:05
	New York at Chi. Cards	1:05
	San Francisco at Balt.	2:05
	Washington at Phila.	2:05
THURS., NOV. 28 (Thanksgiving Day)	Green Bay at Detroit	12:05
SUNDAY, DEC. 1	Chi. Cards at Cleveland	2:05
	Los Angeles at Baltimore	2:05
	Pittsburgh at Philadelphia	2:05
	San Fran. at New York	2:05
	Washington at Chi. Bears	1:05
SATURDAY, DEC. 7	New York at Pittsburgh	1:35
SUNDAY, DEC. 8	Balt. at San Francisco	1:35
	Chi. Bears at Chi. Cards	1:05
	Cleveland at Detroit	1:35
	Green Bay at Los Angeles	1:35
	Philadelphia at Washington	2:05
SATURDAY, DEC. 14	Chi. Cards at Philadelphia	1:35
SUNDAY, DEC. 15	Baltimore at Los Angeles	1:35
	Cleveland at New York	2:05
	Detroit at Chi. Bears	1:05
	Green Bay at San Fran.	1:35
	Pittsburgh at Washington	2:05
SUNDAY, DEC. 22	Pittsburgh at Chi. Cards	1:05
SUNDAY, DEC. 29	World's Championship Playoff Game in home city of Western Conference champion.	

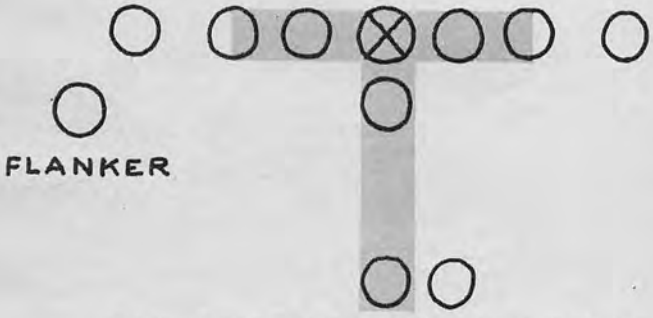
ALL TIMES LOCAL TIME (DAYLIGHT OR STANDARD)

Jack Lavelle,

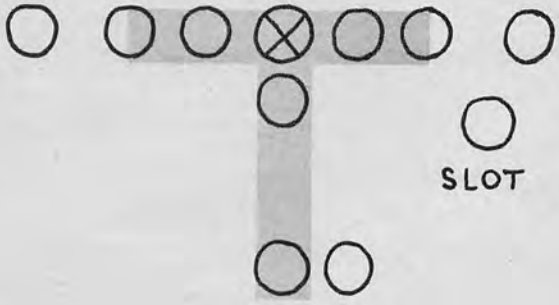
how to watch a football game



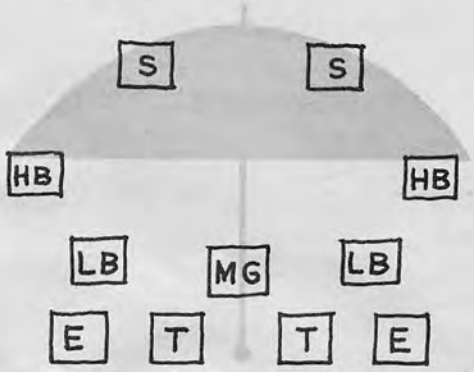
The Giants operate out of a basically straight-T, featuring the belly series with a split line. This means increased spacing between linemen. To confuse opposition, a back sometimes goes into motion



The Browns prefer a wing-T with an ultra-fast flanker like Ray Renfro going wide outside the end to haul in passes. Occasionally, the other halfback will flank in a double wing, leaving fullback deep



The Lions and Bears are leading exponents of the slot-T, growing in use elsewhere. The slot man, usually a third end who can block and catch passes, lines up in the space between tackle and end



The four-man defensive line is prevalent in pro ball. The middle guard moves in and out of the line, depending on his diagnosis of the play. The linebackers are kept fluid; secondary forms umbrella

Chris Schenkel

The man in the stands watches a football game by focusing on the quarterback as he bends behind the center and gyrates in a series of fakes to throw off the defense—not to mention the spectators. Following the ball is obvious, if you can locate it. Let the defensive specialists, who are paid to do the job, guide you to it. Chris Schenkel, the personable Hoosier who is the voice on New York Giant telecasts, keys his viewing to the defense. Since linebackers make 75 percent of the tackles and are on top of the others, let your eyes go where *they* go. A safety man tips you off by hanging back for a pass or zooming up for a run. Schenkel not only has his monitor flashing the view on home screens, but checks quickly, as the huddle breaks, on the offensive alignment—flanker, slot or man in motion. He also looks for a shift in direction of strength. A professional observer like Jack Lavelle, chief scout of the Giants, says, "If you want to follow the play and get a taste of rugged action, take a look at the guards pulling out and knocking off those 250-pounders like a bunch of bowling pins." Essence of the T, the pro game's universal formation, is in the faking of the halfbacks. Pick up their maneuvers as the play unwinds. Halfbacks invariably show direction of the play. Training your eyes to pick up all these players—much as a race-track chart maker follows all eight horses—gives you the complete pattern of action on a football field. You see more than the fact that the halfback broke away for 15 yards and a touchdown. You know how it was accomplished before reading the morning paper.

1957 pro football schedule

with CBS regional networks

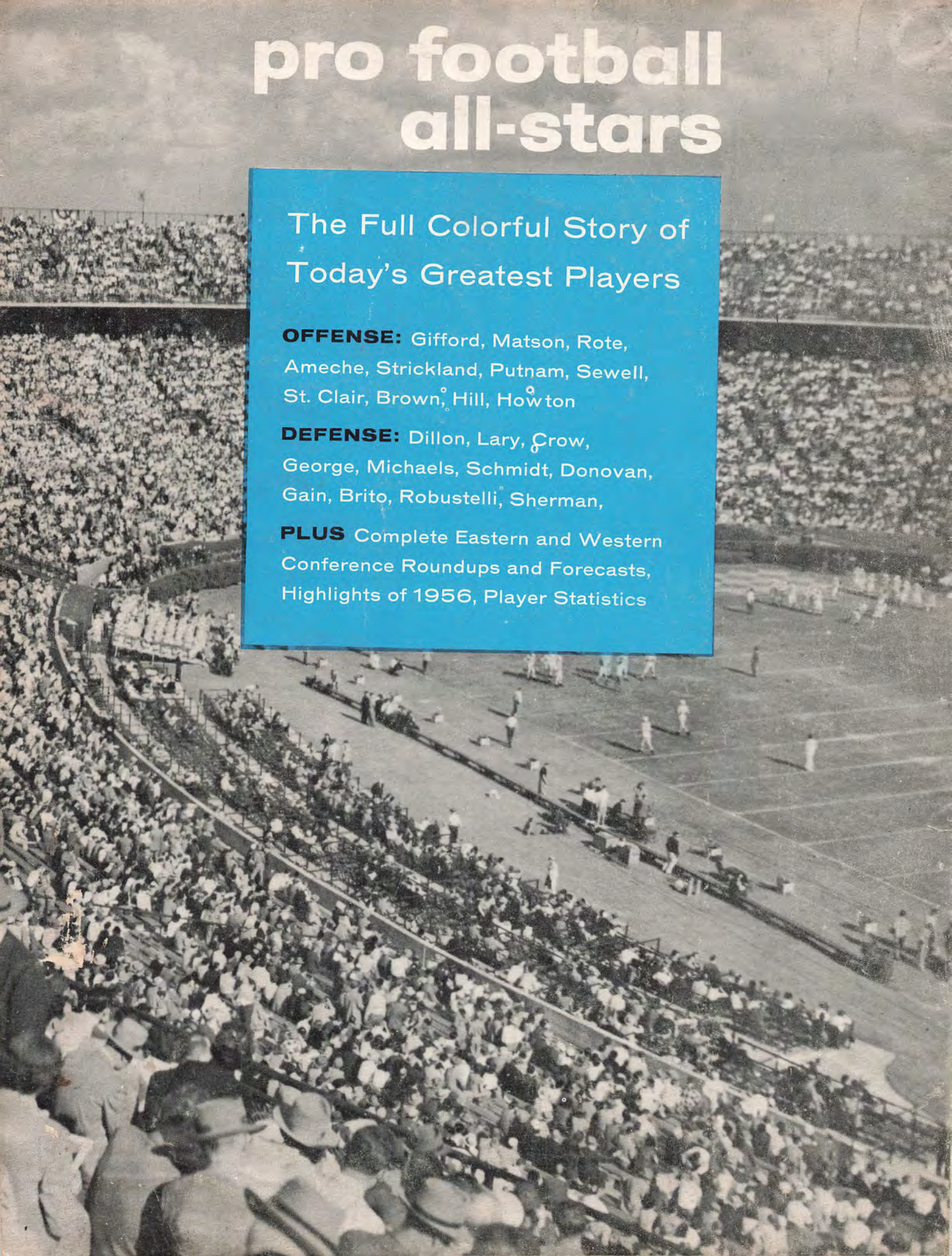
GAME	N.Y.Time	NETWORKS
SEPT. 8		
WASHINGTON AT BALTIMORE	2:00 PM	National
SEPT. 15		
BALTIMORE VS. CARDS At Louisville (exclude state of Michigan and Toledo)	2:00 PM	National
SEPT. 22		
NEW YORK AT DETROIT (exclude state of Michigan and Toledo)		National
SEPT. 29		
WASHINGTON AT PITTSBURGH	2:00 PM	Washington
NEW YORK AT CLEVELAND	3:00 PM	New York Philadelphia
DETROIT AT BALTIMORE	2:00 PM	Detroit (U) Detroit (D)
BEARS AT GREEN BAY	2:00 PM	Green Bay Chicago (and WBEM)
CARDS AT SAN FRANCISCO	5:30 PM	Pacific
OCT. 6		
LOS ANGELES AT SAN FRANCISCO	5:30 PM	Pacific
DETROIT AT GREEN BAY	2:00 PM	Green Bay Detroit (U) Detroit (D)
WASHINGTON AT CARDS	2:00 PM	New York Baltimore Philadelphia Washington Pittsburgh Chicago
OCT. 13		
NEW YORK AT WASHINGTON	2:00 PM	Washington New York
PHILADELPHIA AT CLEVELAND	3:00 PM	Philadelphia
SAN FRANCISCO AT BEARS	2:00 PM	Chicago *San Francisco (L)
LOS ANGELES AT DETROIT	2:30 PM	Detroit (U) Detroit (D) Pacific
BALTIMORE VS. GREEN BAY At Milwaukee	2:00 PM	Green Bay Baltimore
OCT. 20		
CARDS AT WASHINGTON	2:00 PM	Washington
PITTSBURGH AT NEW YORK	2:00 PM	New York Pittsburgh
LOS ANGELES AT BEARS	2:00 PM	Chicago *Los Angeles (L)
SAN FRANCISCO VS. GREEN BAY At Milwaukee	2:00 PM	Green Bay Pacific
BALTIMORE AT DETROIT	2:30 PM	Detroit (U) Detroit (D) Baltimore
OCT. 27		
PHILADELPHIA AT PITTSBURGH	2:00 PM	Philadelphia
WASHINGTON AT NEW YORK	2:00 PM	New York Washington
GREEN BAY AT BALTIMORE	2:00 PM	Green Bay
DETROIT AT LOS ANGELES	4:30 PM	Pacific
CLEVELAND AT CARDS	2:00 PM	Chicago Detroit (D)
NOV. 3		
PHILADELPHIA AT CARDS	2:00 PM	Chicago Philadelphia
WASHINGTON AT CLEVELAND	2:00 PM	Washington
PITTSBURGH AT BALTIMORE	2:00 PM	Pittsburgh
NEW YORK AT GREEN BAY	2:00 PM	Green Bay New York Detroit (D)
DETROIT AT SAN FRANCISCO	4:30 PM	Pacific
NOV. 10		
DETROIT AT PHILADELPHIA	2:00 PM	Detroit (U) Detroit (D)
BALTIMORE AT WASHINGTON	2:00 PM	Washington Baltimore
CARDS AT NEW YORK	2:00 PM	New York
PITTSBURGH AT CLEVELAND	2:00 PM	Pittsburgh
GREEN BAY AT BEARS	2:00 PM	Chicago Green Bay
SAN FRANCISCO AT LOS ANGELES	4:30 PM	Pacific
NOV. 17		
CLEVELAND AT WASHINGTON	2:00 PM	Washington
PHILADELPHIA AT NEW YORK	2:00 PM	New York Philadelphia
BALTIMORE AT BEARS	2:00 PM	Chicago Baltimore Pittsburgh
LOS ANGELES VS. GREEN BAY At Milwaukee	2:00 PM	Green Bay Pacific
SAN FRANCISCO AT DETROIT	1:30 PM	Detroit (U) Detroit (D) San Francisco (L)
NOV. 24		
WASHINGTON AT PHILADELPHIA	2:00 PM	Washington
GREEN BAY AT PITTSBURGH	2:00 PM	Green Bay
NEW YORK AT CARDS	2:00 PM	Chicago New York
LOS ANGELES AT CLEVELAND	2:00 PM	Los Angeles (L)
SAN FRANCISCO AT BALTIMORE	2:00 PM	Pacific
BEARS AT DETROIT	1:30 PM	Detroit (U) Detroit (D)
NOV. 28		
GREEN BAY AT DETROIT	12 Noon	National Detroit (U) WXIX-TV Milwaukee, WBAY-TV Green Bay, WSAU-TV Wausau, and WDMJ-TV Marquette
DEC. 1		
PITTSBURGH AT PHILADELPHIA	2:00 PM	Pittsburgh
SAN FRANCISCO AT NEW YORK	2:00 PM	New York San Francisco (L)
LOS ANGELES AT BALTIMORE	2:00 PM	Pacific
WASHINGTON AT BEARS	2:00 PM	Chicago Washington Green Bay Detroit (U) Detroit (D)
DEC. 7		
NEW YORK AT PITTSBURGH	1:00 PM	New York Philadelphia Baltimore Washington Detroit (U) Detroit (D) Chicago Green Bay Pacific
DEC. 8		
PHILADELPHIA AT WASHINGTON	2:00 PM	Washington Philadelphia New York Pittsburgh
BEARS AT CARDS	2:00 PM	Chicago Green Bay
CLEVELAND AT DETROIT	1:30 PM	Detroit (U) Detroit (D)
BALTIMORE AT SAN FRANCISCO	4:30 PM	Pacific
DEC. 14		
CARDS AT PHILADELPHIA	1:30 PM	New York Baltimore Washington Pittsburgh Detroit (U) Detroit (D) Chicago Green Bay Pacific
DEC. 15		
PITTSBURGH AT WASHINGTON	2:00 PM	Washington Pittsburgh
CLEVELAND AT NEW YORK	2:00 PM	New York Philadelphia
DETROIT AT BEARS	2:00 PM	Chicago Detroit (U) Detroit (D) Green Bay
BALTIMORE AT LOS ANGELES	4:30 PM	Pacific
DEC. 22		
PITTSBURGH AT CARDS	2:00 PM	New York Philadelphia Baltimore Washington Pittsburgh Detroit (U) Detroit (D) Chicago Green Bay Pacific

(U) Game carried on WWTV, WJBK, WKZO, WJIM, WKNX, WSPO (D) Game carried on WKRC, WBNS, WHIO, WIMA *(L) after San Francisco, means game carried on KSBW and KBET after Los Angeles, means game carried on KEXT, KIVA, KFMB

CBS pro football announcers

TEAM	PLAY-BY-PLAY	
New York	Chris Schenkel	Jim McKay
Philadelphia	Byrum Saam	Jack Whitaker
Washington	Jim Gibbons	Arch MacDonald
Baltimore	Chuck Thompson	
Pittsburgh	Joe Tucker	
Chicago Cards	Joe Boland	Joe Foss
Chicago Bears	Red Grange	Bill Fay
Green Bay	Ray Scott	John Lujack
Detroit	Van Patrick	Bob Reynolds
San Francisco	Tom Harmon	
Los Angeles	Bob Kelley	Gil Stratton

pro football all-stars



The Full Colorful Story of Today's Greatest Players

OFFENSE: Gifford, Matson, Rote, Ameche, Strickland, Putnam, Sewell, St. Clair, Brown, Hill, Howton

DEFENSE: Dillon, Lary, Crow, George, Michaels, Schmidt, Donovan, Gain, Brito, Robustelli, Sherman,

PLUS Complete Eastern and Western Conference Roundups and Forecasts, Highlights of 1956, Player Statistics